Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-074 20 April 1993

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Cuba

Agreement To Increase Trade Signed With Iran

PA1804173793 Havana Radio Havana Cube in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The fourth working session of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between Iran and Cuba completed its work this week with an agreement to broaden trade between the two nations, which both governments are interested in doing.

According to official Cuban reports cited by AFP, in 1992 Cuban-Iranian trade totaled $14 million, a figure that should undoubtedly increase immediately. This is indicated in the agreement signed in Havana by representatives of both countries. The agreement describes a plan to increase the exchange of sugar for oil and Cuba's construction of sugar mills in Iran. The bilateral talks also concluded with the decision that the island will send pharmaceutical products and medical personnel to the Arab [as heard] country.

The two nations' agreements to open a new phase of cooperation is strengthened by the announcement that Tehran may take advantage of Cuba's unused oil refining capabilities. Cuba has the potential to refine 11 million tons of oil annually, but at present it is using only 20 percent of this potential.

Ties in the area of energy between Cuba and Iran are very important due to the island's oil deficit. Currently, Cuba is trying to increase its extractions from existing oil deposits in addition to exploring new areas through risk contracts with foreign companies. In 1993, Cuba's total production should reach 1.3 tons, which will cover almost 20 percent of the country's needs, and it must purchase the rest on the international market. Russia will supply between 2 and 3 million tons of oil in exchange for sugar and other Cuban products, a type of agreement which has now been extended to Iran.

Iran, a country of 55 million inhabitants and an area of over 1.6 million square km, resumed diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1979 following the triumph of the Islamic revolution. Cuba and Iran are determined to develop their economies under difficult circumstances and, coincidentally, they must overcome the hostility of the United States.

Solidarity With Ecuador, Spanish Province Reported

FL1904191693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Solidarity efforts do not recognize borders nor are they limited by characteristics or difficulties. Solidarity is a reciprocal factor that works both ways, as demonstrated by the following report.

According to an agreement proposed by the municipal United Left Group and unanimously approved by Estepona City Hall in the southern Spanish province of Malaga, the city hall will soon be sending one ton of powdered milk. A spokesperson for this coalition announced that within the next few days, a message will be sent to U.S. President William Clinton, asking for the lifting of the U.S. embargo imposed against Cuba over 30 years ago.

Today, meanwhile, the media in Ecuador are highlighting the message of solidarity sent by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen in response to flooding in the southern region of Ecuador. Cuba has offered to send doctors, nurses, and paramedic personnel to help soften the effects of the natural disaster in the southern Ecuadoran region. This disaster has been described as the worst in years.

Vietnamese Government Donates Items Worth $50,000

FL2004124993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Today in Hanoi, Cuba and Vietnam reiterated their feelings of solidarity and brotherhood during a ceremony in which a donation of articles of consumption worth $50,000 were symbolically presented by the Vietnamese Government to Cuba. Cuban Ambassador Tania Maceira stressed that the gesture is highly important for being a donation from Vietnam, which is a poor country and receives international support.

Administrative Councils in Holguin, Las Tunas Formed

FL1904014693 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The Administrative Councils of Holguin and Las Tunas Provinces were formed with the presence of Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly. Jaime Crombet, vice president of the National Assembly, and the first secretaries of the Communist Party of Cuba of the two provinces. The Administrative Council of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government in Holguin was formed on 18 April as part of the process to perfect the Cuban Government. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Politburo member and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], chaired the ceremony. The Administrative Council in Holguin comprises 19 members, headed by Central Committee member engineer Gilberto Dominguez, and lawyer Alberto Olivera, vice president of the provincial assembly, in addition to six other vice presidents.

Julian Lopez and Francisco Grave de Peralta, president and vice president of the provincial assembly, head this new 20-member administrative organization in Las Tunas Province.

During his address to the first special session of the seventh legislation in Las Tunas, Ricardo Alarcon de

Quesada explained the characteristics and functions of the administrative council and congratulated its members. In an interview for this newscast, Alarcon talks about the two main topics which will be discussed at the next period of session of the ANPP.

[Begin Alarcon recording] In addition to other subjects the ANPP is going to discuss, we will discuss the national energy program and make an analysis of the people's councils. Regarding the first, the ANPP will not draft a new energy program. There are programs already developed by diverse organizations and state institutions that are responsible for this very important sphere. What we are talking about is to mobilize, channel, and organize the people's initiative, and promote a more profound discussion and collective reflection by the whole Cuban society on a subject that affects all of us and to which we should all contribute.

As for the people's councils: This is a subject that has a very universal value because it is the newest and most effective instrument that we have developed in the last few years. There are many experiences and types of councils. There are councils in the mountains, in large cities, in flat rural areas, in suburban areas. There are all types of situations and a great wealth of experiences and contributions which every council can make. [end recording]

Military Graduation Marks DAAFAR Anniversary

FL1804223693 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Thirty-two years ago, the founders, with old and limited equipment, shot down enemy planes, sank ships, and revealed to the world the troops of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR]. Today, these who were yet unborn in 1961 are the protagonists of the first graduation in Cuba of DAAFAR pilots, engineers, and technicians. They are like any other Cuban youths, with books, rifles, or girlfriends waiting at home. They are, however, our clean, free air and the sound sleep we enjoy. They are as young as their predecesors were.

Today, at the Jose Marti Technical Military Institute, the director, Colonel Miguel Gala Valiente, gave the main address. Brigadier General Ruben Martinez Puentes, vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and DAAFAR chief, was in attendance.

The parade demonstrated that the new graduates are already part of the Cuban Pilots School and that the veterans continue to reaffirm the boldness of 1993.

[Begin Martinez recording; identified by caption] In April 1961, the class struggle in Cuba acquired great dimensions and wrote glorious pages of revolutionary history. On the 15th, the criminal bombardment of our main military airfields took place, and this field was one of the places where brave young artillery soldiers courageously responded to the enemy. We can be proud that this became the first weapon to repel the enemy. [end recording]

Mankind, who has learned to fly better than birds, is definitely the master of kindness on this island where the sky bears the symbols of the fatherland.

Juan Contino Maintains Continuity of UJC Goals

FL1904201993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] When Roberto Robaina assumed the Foreign Ministry post, certain skeptics predicted that the work of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] would make a 180-degree turn. When the UJC leadership changed hands, many thought that the UJC would change overnight. However, the UJC has not lost its drive.

What are now the top priorities of Juan Contino, the new first secretary of the UJC? They are to strengthen ideological work among members and to ensure that the youth participate in each march with full awareness of the importance of their presence. There is also the ongoing task of transforming the base level to ensure that every youth sees the youth committees at work and education centers as primary resources. The UJC plans to participate in every task defining the Revolution; to maintain the drive of the Student Labor Brigades, which will be mobilized twice a year; and to continue to involve the youth in the tasks of the sugarcane harvest, the recovery of the mills, and community services.

Just a few hours ago, the Cuban youth participated in the productive work day, "Always alongside the Fatherland," in salute to the 32d anniversary of the Bay of Pigs victory. Today, the UJC will host a ceremony commemorating this victory at the very site of the battles. The UJC has also already begun preparations for the May Day parade. They will complete the march in the square and will be full of originality. Among us, nothing has changed. Signed: The UJC.

Three Workers Honored for Prevention of Illegal Departure

FL1804230093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The Council of State, at the direction of the minister of the interior, has bestowed the Eliseo Perez Medal First Class on Eugenio Gonzales Molla, posthumously, and on Eladio Vasques Nanes during a ceremony at Casa de la Cultura in Varadero. Jesus Valdez Bolanos received the Protection of the Borders Medal First Class. These tourism sector workers prevented an illegal attempt to leave the country on 5 February by two individuals of the worst social conduct who had kidnapped two tourists in Varadero.

The medals were bestowed by Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba for Matanzas, who presented the medal to Eugenio Gonzalez' father.

Varadero Oil Workers Extract 210,000 Tons of Crude Oil

FL1904150493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1403 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Oil workers at the Varadero oil field, specialists in Cuban fuel extraction, have extracted 210,000 tons of crude oil so far this year.

(Margo Segelera), director of the central drilling and extraction enterprise, explained that this amount represents a little more than 87 percent of the amount planned; the activity was affected by collection problems and maritime shipping problems of crude oil during the quarter. (Segelera) said drilling equipment installation is behind schedule, hindering the timely placing of new wells into operation. The push during March helped reduce the accumulated deficit.

Today's edition of the magazine TRABAJADORES stated that the construction enterprise is rapidly carrying out its tasks to guarantee the extraction of 1 million tons of oil in 1993.

Las Tunas Breaks Previous Planting Record

FL1904215093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Miscellaneous crops enterprises and cooperatives in Las Tunas Province have achieved in March the highest level of planting in their history for this month by planting 274 caballerias of agricultural products. During a meeting of agricultural leaders, headed by Alfredo Jordan, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Las Tunas, it was reported that the high rate of planting continues in April. They therefore expect to break their previous planting record. Presently, there are over 1,600 caballerias planted with tubers, grains, and vegetables in the eight municipalities of Las Tunas Province. This represents 82 percent of the total arable land. This figure had never before been reached in this province. At the meeting, Jordan stressed the need to finish planting, as soon as possible, 1,000 caballerias of plantain and 500 caballerias of yucca.

Minaz Supports Continued Sugar Byproduct Production

FL1904225193 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Despite current difficulties and the short supply of sugarcane, the Ministry of the Sugar Industry [Minaz] has kept its sugarcane byproduct plants active. These plants will produce significant amounts of various lines of goods this year. According to the latest reports, the alcohol production program yields over 1.5 million liters for distinct uses, such as brandy and rum production.

Regarding animal fodder, the Minaz during 1993 should contribute close to 1 million tons of molasses-urea, sacharina, (pafumel), and other cattle feed products. Among the feed derived from sugarcane are at least 320,000 tons of proteic molasses for pigs and more than 34,000 tons of (sacharomises) yeast, a distillery byproduct used in bee farming. Also included, although in small amounts because of supply and other resource problems, is the production of corporal (dextrana), rat poison, and composite board.

Minaz Enterprise Exports Technology to 26 Countries

FL2004123893 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] In a solemn ceremony in which the enterprise Tecnozucar was awarded the vanguard banner, it was noted that this enterprise exports equipment and parts and provides technical help to more than 26 countries. It was also noted that the Ministry of the Sugar Industry [Minaz] enterprise surpassed its export plan by 5 percent and obtained a greater amount of sales in 1992 following a decade of operations.

Manuel Cordero Aguila, secretary general of the National Sugar Workers Union, said that among the countries that receive Tecnozucar supplies or technical assistance are Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Spain.

Recent Rains Require Harvest Deadline Extension

FL1904232193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1943 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Intense efforts are being undertaken in Santiago de Cuba Province to restart, as quickly as possible, the harvest that was completely halted today by the rains of the past 48 hours. The eight mills of the province ground only 28 percent yesterday as a result of Saturday's rain. The rains increased yesterday and in certain localities registered 72 mm. For this reason, the harvest will be extended a few days longer than originally planned. The harvest is expected to last until the end of May. The America Libre Mill in Contramaestre Municipality, however, expects to fulfill its plan in salute to May Day.

In order to fulfill its sugar plan, Santiago de Cuba Province must grind all cane available in this harvest, including the possibility of cutting cane from areas in Holguin, Guantanamo, and Granma Provinces as well

Rains Immobilize Mills in Guantanamo Province

FL1904233493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1939 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The rains resulting within the past 24 hours from a stationary cold front over the Eastern provinces have stopped all mills in Guantanamo Province, with the exception of the Costa Arriba Mill. The majority of fields in the province's other five mills are flooded, with worsened road conditions, impacting sugarcane cutting,

picking, and transport operations in a harvest already behind schedule from a multitude of problems.

The weather station in Guantanamo reported that 29.1 mm of rain fell between 0700 Sunday and 0700 Monday. The Provincial General Staff announced that there is no significant damage elsewhere in the province. Rain gauges have registered 38 mm in El Salvador Municipality, 25 in San Antonio del Sur Municipality, and 15 in Baracoa Municipality.

Authorities Conduct Search for Optical Neuritis Patients

PA2004035793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2338 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Havana, 18 Apr (EFE)—Cuban health authorities have conducted house-to-house polls to locate people affected by optical neuritis, a disease that has spread rapidly throughout the country and is attributed to a lack of vitamins.

In Havana alone, more than 2,000 cases have been detected and there has been a daily average of up to 100 cases in the past few days, medical sources told EFE.

Family doctors, who provide initial treatment in the neighborhoods, and other professionals who work in municipality hospitals, are conducting the polls.

At the Salvador Allende Hospital, one of the most important in the capital, specialized medical attention is being offered to people affected by the disease that strikes mostly men and causes progressive loss of sight, according to an article appearing on 18 April in the weekly TRIBUNA DE LA HAVANA.

A diagnostic center operates Monday through Saturday to give treatment to patients sent there by family doctors. It has a team that works 24 hours a day.

The diagnosis of the disease is made on the same day of the exam. If the diagnosis is positive, the patient is hospitalized for 10 days to receive adequate treatment that consists mainly of vitamin B doses.

Ophthalmologist Maria Cristina Diaz said patients undergo a test to determine their ability to differentiate colors and determine their visual field.

After leaving the hospital, patients continue treatment for sometime "because recovery of the optical nerve, as is the case with any central or peripheral nerve, is not achieved in a few days," the Havana weekly pointed out.

A new Cuban-made medicine called Neo-Vitamin II2 will be distributed free among the population in May to combat this disease.

The product contains Vitamins A, B-12, B-6, B-2, B-1, folic acid, and nicotinamide. Initial production is expected to be 1.8 billion tablets, of which 21 million is already produced.

The epidemic outbreak of optical neuritis appeared in late 1992 in Pinar del Rio, in western Cuba, and its existence was announced officially on 3 March by a Public Health Ministry communique.

Antigua and Barbuda

United Progressive Party Reelects Opposition Leader Spencer

FL2004013293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1837 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 19, CANA—Antigua's one-year-old United Progressive Party (UPP), which ended its first national convention here on Sunday [18 April], has reelected parliamentary opposition leader and trade unionist Baldwin Spencer as its political leader. His nomination was unopposed.

The UPP, a merger of the three former political parties—Spencer's United National Democratic Party (UNDP), Tim Hector's Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM), and Robert Hall's Progressive Labour Movement (PLM)—was formed in April 1992 at the height of opposition-led protests against Prime Minister Vere Bird, Sr.

Delegates reelected businessman Vincent "Tubby" Derrick as party chairman and chose lawyer Harold Lovell as the new deputy chairman. Social worker Burton Barnes was elected as the party's new general secretary, and business executive Eustace Nicholas as the new treasurer. Barnes told CANA the UPP had emerged from the convention better prepared to face the electorate at the next general elections which are constitutionally due by next March.

"We have been campaigning on the issue of more involvement of the people. The convention reflected this view and as such there will be a clearer understanding by all of where we are going," he said.

Dominican Republic

Opposition Accuses President of Deserting Farm Sector

FL1904180393 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The serious agricultural and livestock problems of the Dominican Republic that are affecting such sectors as sugar, coffee, rice, and pork have been taken up as weapons by the opposition severely to question the administration of President Joaquin Balaguer, whom they accuse of deserting the farm sector.

The virtual bankruptcy of the Rosario Dominicana mine, closed down and under enormous debt, has been added to the list of affairs the government has managed poorly, according to the opposition. The state mine was forced to lay off approximately 1,000 workers last month

when it closed after announcing that the cost of producing one ounce of gold exceeded its sale price. The mining enterprise plans to exploit its sulfur deposits and make up its losses, but ecologists oppose this idea.

The State Sugar Council [CEA], which manages 10 state mills, has debts totaling over $100 million, while the future of the 1992 to 1993 sugarcane harvest is doubtful. On 27 February, during a speech to the National Assembly, President Balaguer announced that he was personally assuming the management of the sugar organization, which he described as politicized. Since then, little has been accomplished, however. The CEA owes 225 million pesos or $18 million to private farmers who are facing bankruptcy. The president of the private farmers association stated that they are nearly bankrupt, have no credit, and have no money to put food on their tables.

Haiti

People's Assembly Calls For 26 Apr General Strike

FL1904205493 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The National People's Assembly, APN, declares that it has begun a permanent mobilization from today on and calls for a general strike on 26 April.

During a news conference this morning at the Christopher Hotel, the leading members of the APN, including Harry Numa and (Edouard Baquier), said that the purpose of the strike is to affect the departure of the coupists and the return of President Aristide. The following is an excerpt:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in Creole] We in the APN have always known that the only way that Aristide could return with full authority would be through mobilization of the people. All sectors, all staunch people's organizations... [pauses] Since the plans of the antichange forces do not and will never consider the people's wishes, the APN deems the country's situation extremely serious and believes resistance must become more effective. Seventeen months are enough; the people can wait no longer. The APN calls for a nonstop mobilization throughout the entire country for the return of Aristide. This mobilization will begin with a general strike on 26 April.

The APN calls on peasants, small business, workers, the unemployed, students, teachers, fathers, mothers, honest shopkeepers, democratic organizations, people's organizations, and socioprofessional organizations to participate in the 26 April general strike. [end recording]

Pro-Aristide Pictures Posted in La Gonave

FL1904164693 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1200 19 Apr 93

[Text] The population in La Gonave have found many pictures of President Aristide in the streets and on walls. Here are details by our correspondent:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] On 19 April, the population of La Gonave found in all the streets many pictures of Father Aristide on which were written, Up with the 29 March 1987 Constitution; down with any de facto power; enough is enough; let us rise up; no matter what. The people will nevertheless have Titide [Aristide] return through a nonstop mobilization for a return without loss.

These are what we saw on pictures in all the streets and all the public offices. We noted that many people had those pictures in their hands. They were so happy that it appeared that a firm hope was blooming in their hearts. [end recording]

Reaction of Business Sector to Political 'Crisis' Noted

FL1904170993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] There have been no reactions on the national plan. None of the political parties has commented on the failure of UN/OAS negotiator Dante Caputo's mission. Party leaders, divided on the method of solving the political crisis, are confining themselves to a silence, difficult to interpret. The government headed by Mr. Bazin has not reacted. The Army, the main party concerned, has maintained its usual silence.

The only reaction comes from the business sector. This reaction still needs to be placed before or after the announcement of the failure of the fifth Caputo mission.

Ten business associations would like for their concerns to be considered in the solution to the crisis. The concerns of this sector are: that the Constitution and the laws of the Republic be respected; that the expression of popular will be shown exclusively through the means and through the private institutions provided for in the Constitution; that respect for life and property be guaranteed; that the right to health, education, and housing for the entire population in the framework of harmonious planning be guaranteed; and that respect for the right to property, free competition, and equality before the law be guaranteed. The associations would also like for the debate on the major economic, social, and political options of the country be open. Finally, the associations would like the participation of the business sector in the creation and implementation of economic and social programs.

Mirebalais Mayor Seeks Protection Against Military

FL2004002093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpt] In Mirebalais, a city hall official was shouted at last week by some military in the area. The authorities at city hall held a news conference today with international observers. Our correspondent filed the following report:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Unidentified reporter] In a news conference during the weekend, Mirebalais Mayor Paul Yvel Milien denounced several acts of intimidation and persecution by which Mirebalais military authorities threatened him on the pretext that he and Deputy Mayor Clother (Senoble) Mirebalais are stirring up trouble by distributing leaflets with the picture of the ousted president. The UN/OAS international mission observers who are now in Plateau Central attended this conference. The mayor revealed that the military authorities accused him of many other things such as holding several secret meetings in the city hall with the communal sectors. He is also accused of providing information to the UN/OAS observers regarding human rights violations during their visit on 13 and 14 April. The mayor also said that last week the military authorities questioned him in their office. This is his report:

[Milien] They threatened to take action against me. The district commander told me that they would not cooperate with me at all, that they are no longer responsible for my security. After he shouted at me, without excusing himself, he turned his back and left. [end recording]

[Reporter] The mayor denied all accusations made by the military authorities. By his situation, the mayor is warning the country and all the foreign organizations defending human rights to be aware of the case of the Haitian people who have real danger hanging over their heads. [passage omitted]

During the news conference, the mayor requested the intervention of the international mission members who were present, to guarantee his security against the military authorities. The mission members did not delay in doing so.

After the news conference, questioned about human rights in the department, one of the mission members quoted an old Haitian saying to us: Eyes watch, mouth shuts. We are simply giving the phone numbers of offices in Port-au-Prince to journalists and everyone else in case they feel persecuted. Maurice Miraxin, Radio Metropole, Mirebalais. [end recording]

Jamaica

Patterson Names 13 Senators; Opposition Appoints None in Protest

FL2004005693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1822 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 19, CANA—Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has named 13 senators who will represent the ruling People's National Party (PNP) in the upper house of the newly-elected Jamaica Parliament. Four of those named already have been appointed to the cabinet. They are David Coore, minister of legal affairs; Carlyle Dunkley, minister of tourism, industry and commerce; Dr. Peter Phillips, minister without portfolio in the office of the prime minister; and Dr. Omar Davies, minister without portfolio.

The 13 senators also include Maxine Henry-Wilson who is a junior (state) minister in the office of the prime minister. The others are Winston Jones, who was president of the Senate in the last Parliament; Alfred Rattray; Syringa Marshall-Burnett; Frank Pringle; Noel Monteith; Janet Madden; Dr. Donald Rhoden; and Navel Clarke. The newcomers to the Senate are Clarke, Monteith, Madden, and Rhoden.

The opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), which is constitutionally entitled to eight senators, has said it will not be appointing any in protest against electoral irregularities in the March 30 general election, which it lost by a landslide. The JLP also is moving to have some constituency results overturned in the courts.

The March 30 election was marred by voter intimidation and ballot box stuffing by goons supporting both parties in some mainly urban constituencies. Administrative foul-ups also resulted in some voters being deprived of their franchise. However, both parties, as well as independent observers, agreed that the PNP would have won by a substantial margin even without irregularities.

'Political Violence' Leaves 4 Wounded in Central Village

FL2004014293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2124 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 19, CANA—Jamaican police were maintaining a strong presence in Central Village, a community ten miles west of here late Monday, following a round of political violence which left four persons shot and injured Sunday [18 April] night.

Angry residents of the area, who identified themselves as supporters of the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), used debris to briefly block the Mandela Highway, the main artery linking the capital with western and southern Jamaica. The blockage was quickly cleared by security forces.

Police reports say Hubert Mayne, 35; Diana Duncan, 29; Winsome Gayle, 27; and Suzette Davis, 11; all of Zion Hill in Central Village, are in stable condition in hospital after being shot by gunmen who passed through their community late Sunday. The attackers, who residents claim were supporters of the ruling Peoples National Party (PNP), set fire to a four-room wooden house, destroying it and leaving serveral people homeless, the police information centre said.

Media reports say the incident was in retaliation to another shooting in a neighbouring community the previous night. Sections of St. Catherine and downtown Kingston have remained tense since the March 30 general election, which the PNP won by a landslide.

Police have associated 14 deaths with the month-long election campaign which was also marred by administrative bungling and electoral fraud in some mainly urban constituencies.

Trinidad and Tobago

Prices Rise in Response to Float of T&T Dollar

FL1904124193 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The decision to float the Trinidad and Tobago [T&T] dollar is already having repercussions in that country. Ken Thomas reports from Port-of-Spain.

[Begin Thomas recording] The currency was, in effect, depreciated by 52 percent when bankers were given the go-ahead last Tuesday to float the local dollar at the trading rate of T&T$5.76 dollars to $1. Many shoppers reported over the weekend having to pay more for food items at various supermarkets. The minister of finance, Wendell Mottley, told a gathering in South Trinidad he had reports that the price of frozen chicken had risen by about 50 percent. He said such reports will be investigated by the minister in charge of commercial affairs with the view of having appropriate action taken against the unscrupulous business people.

Several major manufacturers have already announced plans to increase the prices of their products, including soft drinks, electronic items, and bakers' flour. Some companies supplying the nation with imported goods and raw materials, for instance, agricultural and construction equipment, automotive lubricants, down to even schoolbooks, were at the weekend upgrading their retail price stocks, some 'way beyond the 15-percent markup recommended by the local economists.

This depreciation of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar is also going to have a crippling effect on services provided by the local hospitals, including the Mount Hope Medical Complex, which imports several million dollars in pharmaceuticals and medical consumables each year. Nevertheless, the deputy governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Terence Fowles, told interviewer Andy Johnson on government television Trinidadians could look forward to a possible turning point in the local economy by the middle of next year. Dr. Fowles says although the floating dollar will have implications for this country's national debts, there could be some postiive development in the petroleum sector by mid-1994. [end recording]

San Luis Potosi Holds Elections 18 Apr

PRI Claims Victory

PA1904180093 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Report by Martin Carmona Torres]

[Text] The special gubernatorial and congressional elections held on 18 April in San Luis Potosi took place peacefully. No official results have been announced yet.

At midnight on 18 April, the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] claimed victory, saying it had received 66 percent of the votes cast. The Nava Political Party, PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], PDM [Mexican Democratic Party], and PT [Labor Party of Mexico] withdrew from the State Electoral Council on grounds of alleged irregularities during the election.

Regarding this issue, Luis Garcia Julian, president of the State Electoral Council, reported in a news conference that the withdrawal of the political parties will not affect or lessen the credibility of the elections.

Unofficial reports indicate the PRI candidate is leading the vote. According to polls, the PRI candidate reportedly received 63 percent of the vote; the PAN [National Action Party] obtained 22 percent; and the Nava Political Party-PRD-PT-PDM coalition got 13 percent of the vote.

On election day, the State Electoral Council reported the following incidents: In 12 of 13 districts the polls opened at 1030, namely one and one-half hours after the official opening. This was attributed to the lack of experience of officials at the polling places.

When casting his vote, Acting Governor Teofilo Torres Corzo stated that the electoral process took place amid calm and without difficulties. He explained his administration did everything possible to organize a reliable process.

PRI candidate Horacio Sanchez Unzueta stated that any controversy over the electoral process will be resolved by the appropriate legal body. After casting his vote, he stated that whether he wins or loses, the victory will belong to San Luis Potosi.

[Begin Sanchez recording] I think that there is room for controversy in every electoral process. To deal with this possibility, organizations exist that will work to solve electoral differences or controversies. [end recording]

PAN gubernatorial candidate Jorge Lozano Armengol said that there is no electoral fatigue among Potosi citizens. Casting his vote at polling site 114 at the Medical School of San Luis Potosi, he said that there is post electoral combat fatigue among citizens.

Concepcion Calvillo de Nava, Nava Political Party candidate, refused to make a statement after voting. It should be noted that at her polling site, polling site No. 18 of District 2, the following results were given: PRI 260 votes; PAN 215; and the coalition 134 votes.

The polls closed at 1800 and the polling site officers immediately began counting the votes. So far approximately 2,500 policemen, who have been deployed throughout the city, have not reported any problems.

It should be mentioned that Luis Garcia Julian, president of San Luis Potosi State Electoral Council, said that until 2300 on 18 April no motion against the electoral process had been filed.

After midnight, PRI followers took to the streets to commemorate their victory. Perspectives looked grim at the campaign headquarters of the PAN and Nava Political Party, where officials were working to gather information and plan the strategy to present motions against the electoral process.

The Council president reported that the electoral packages containing the vote tally sheets will be opened on 22 April. This will permit officials to learn a percentage of the election results.

Preliminary Vote Count Noted

PA2004043693 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Report by Jose Aguilar Noyola]

[Text] Special gubernatorial elections and regular elections for deputies were held on 18 April in San Luis Potosi. The State Electoral Council revealed during a 19 April news conference that the preliminary vote count favors the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI]. Hector Hernandez of the State Electoral Council's Grievance Commission said the following:

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] We have official results from 423 of the 2,199 voting booths where 42.23 percent of the eligible voters cast their ballots.

In the gubernatorial election, 61.84 percent voted for PRI; 23.45 percent for the National Action Party [PAN]; .42 percent for the Popular Socialist Party [PPS]; 1.39 percent for the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD]; .4 percent for the Authentic Party of the Mexican

Revolution [PARM]; 1.14 percent for the Mexican Democratic Party [PDM]; and 9.03 percent for [name indistinct] party. There were .16 percent blank votes [votos no registrados] and 2.18 percent annulled votes.

In the election for deputies, 42.09 percent of registered voters cast their ballots. Of that number, 59.59 percent voted for PRI; 24.4 percent for PAN; .47 percent for PPS; 1.63 percent for PRD; .69 percent for the Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction; .69 percent for PARM; 9.95 percent for [name indistinct] party; and .38 percent for the Labor Party. There were .15 percent blank votes and 2.09 percent annulled votes. Those are the total results [as heard] for the gubernatorial and deputy elections.

[Unidentified reporter] Sir, how many people voted in San Luis Potosi?

[Hernandez] Our estimate so far is 41 to 43 percent of registered voters. [end recording]

Costa Rica

Honduran President Visits, Discusses Integration Process

PA1904201093 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Report by William Cespedes from the Presidential Palace in San Jose]

[Text] On the morning of 19 April, Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas began with a 30-minute delay his two-day state visit to Costa Rica to reciprocate the visit made by President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier to Tegucigalpa a little more than a year ago. The president said that there are excellent relations between the two countries, adding that the differences in the area of political integration are not an obstacle to continuing the process of improving and modernizing Central American economic integration.

President Callejas, who was welcomed in an official ceremony in the gardens of the National Museum, stated that Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala have successfully launched a series of political acts that are yielding positive results. He said it would be positive if Costa Rica could join these efforts.

The Honduran president recognized that each country has the sovereign right to adopt the political and economic actions it deems convenient.

Following the official welcoming ceremony at the National Museum, the Honduran president placed a wreath at the national monument. Callejas, who was flanked by students from area schools, walked from the museum to the national monument and Morazan Park, where he placed a wreath on the bust of [Central American founding father] Francisco Morazan. He was declared a distinguished guest of San Jose Municipality, which presented him with the key to the city.

Questioned on the differences between Costa Rica and the so-called Central American northern triangle countries [Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras], President Callejas said he hopes to reach specific agreements during these two days of conversations with President Calderon Fournier.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] In addition to greeting warmly the Costa Rican people and their president, the purpose of my visit is to continue discussing the economic integration process, which is an important aspect in our countries. Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua—we hope that Panama will join in soon—are working toward creating a Central American regional economic bloc.

[Unidentified reporter] But there are differences of opinion on the actions of the northern triangle countries and how Costa Rica views integration.

[Callejas] No, there are no differences. There are two parallel processes that do not exclude anyone. Some countries believe that it is important for us to be able to promote political integration. To this effect, we are designing the popular consultation mechanism to obtain the people's opinion. This is not contradictory to the effort we are making in the area of economic integration.

Each nation is sovereign and independent. We have known for some time the Costa Rican position that it is not ready at this time to analyze the political option. This is not an obstacle to continue working on economic integration, which is moving right along. Economic integration has strengthened the levels of Central American trade to the point that since the beginning of this second stage of integration, trade between Central American countries exceeded $500 million. We hope it will reach $1 billion by the end of the year.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Costa Rica's incorporation into the northern triangle countries' agreements?

[Callejas] No. Not in the political area. This is a decision for each country. It has nothing to do with economic aspects in which Costa Rica has been a main player.

[Reporter] Costa Rica demands a new economic integration agreement, because it believes the current agreement is obsolete. Are you willing to revise the regional economic policy?

[Callejas] Yes, indeed. We will support an initiative to modernize the juridical efforts of the Central American region because there are instruments and institutions that must take significant steps toward this. There are important documents, such as the Tegucigalpa Protocol, which will need to be ratified by all Central American countries. This demonstrates a vision to modernize the Central American economies within the framework of internal Central American relations. Therefore, the proposals made by Costa Rica are welcome and will be considered and analyzed. [end recording]

Shortly, the presidents will begin their first round of bilateral talks here at the Presidential Palace. At the same time, Costa Rican and Honduran delegations will meet to discuss economic relations and commercial and political exchange between Honduras and Costa Rica.

President Calderon will give a luncheon in honor of President Callejas and his entourage, and at 1700 on 19 April President Callejas will be received at the Legislative Assembly.

Guatemala

URNG Denies Involvement in 16 Apr 'Terrorist' Attacks

PA1904231793 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] On 17 April a subversive group carried out an incursion in Santa Cruz Naranjo, Santa Rosa. It is estimated about 60 rebels occupied the downtown area for one and a half hours. One of them injured Luis

Alfredo Mejia, 20, who was trying to leave the site of a subversive meeting. The rebels attacked the local police station and seized seven carbines, three revolvers, and ammunition. There were at least two women among the insurgents.

Government security forces have reported no progress in the investigations of the 16 April terrorist attacks in the capital. The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] has denied any involvement.

On the evening of 16 April, there were three explosions at branches of the electricity company on Milla y Vidaurre, San Juan, and Roosevelt Streets in this capital city.

Anonymous calls to the media claimed the URNG was responsible for the actions. They added the attacks were carried out to protest a recent increase in electricity rates. URNG leaders, however, on 17 April sent a note from Mexico denying that organization carried out these actions. It added this is actually a government maneuver to justify repressive actions against people's organizations opposed to increases.

The actions left one injured and considerable damage was reported at the electricity company branches. The explosions went off after the personnel departed. A public demonstration to protest this and other recent government measures, which are considered to be harmful to the interests of the population, had taken place hours earlier in downtown Guatemala City.

Civilian Self-Defense Groups Hold Rally 18 Apr

PA2004043893 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] More than 3,000 peasants comprising the Civilian Self-Defense Voluntary Committees in San Martin Jilotepeque, Chimaltenango, held a rally on 18 April to support the peace process presented by the president and to reject the violence provoked by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

The event was held to celebrate the organization's 10th anniversary. The peasants said they had joined the committees "because the rebel groups' aggressions prompted them to organize themselves to defend their lives and the nation's sovereignty."

Several speakers stated: "We now feel safe because the Army supports us. We have rejected all the negative ideas we had about the military because we now know the attacks are conducted by guerrilla groups."

Marcelo Marroquin, chief of the municipality's civilian patrols, said: "We must love one another and struggle for the family because it is the core of our peace process."

The peasants said the Civilian Self-Defense Voluntary Committees in San Martin Jilotepeque prevent terrorist groups' attacks. They urged the government and the military to continue the struggle for peace.

Colonel Victor Manuel Ventura Arellana, Military Base 302 commander, headquartered in La Alameda, Chimaltenango, said: "We are pleased to see that the citizens have rejected the groups with foreign ideologies that try to impose their ideas forcibly."

People from 16 villages in San Martin Jilotepeque attended the event: Quimal; Las Escobas; Chuatalum; Xejuju; Xesuj; Chicojom; Estancia de San Martin; Molino; Varituc; Sacala Las Lomas; San Jose las Rosas; Los Magueyes; San Jose las Canoas; Estancia de la Virgen; Santa Anita las Canoas; and Esperancita Canajal.

Alleged DEA Agent Murdered by 3 Assailants

PA1904163593 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] A man said to be a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent and identified as Hugo Werner Meyer, age 48, was shot to death by three individuals the morning of 15 April at 3588 Second Street, Zone 11.

One of the victim's colleagues who visited the scene of the tragedy told security police that the victim had worked for the DEA and urged them to initiate an investigation to arrest his murderers.

According to the police, three individuals fired repeatedly at Werner as he left the vehicle repair shop he owned at the aforementioned address.

Werner attempted to flee while his assailants were cocking their weapons, but he fell to the ground upon receiving a shot to the head and three more in the thorax. His assailants fled in a green vehicle, the license number of which is known to police.

Meyer was still alive and firemen took him to the social security General Hospital, where accident victims are treated, but he died shortly after arrival.

Meyer was murdered in front of dozens of employees of a nearby factory who were on their lunch break.

Eyewitnesses said the assailants arrived at 0900. Two of them leaned against a lamppost and another remained at the wheel of their vehicle. When Meyer appeared they approached him and opened fire at point-blank range.

Witnesses said the three assailants were young men between the ages of 25 and 28. One of them wore a palm matting hat, blue sailcloth trousers, and black cowboy boots.

Meyer drove a vehicle with license plates P-90305, owned by Empresa Electrica de Guatemala, S.A. (EEGSA), which was taken to the Fifth National Police Corps warehouse.

A call was placed to the U.S. Embassy Press Office to determine whether the murdered engineer had worked

for the DEA, but a secretary said the person in charge of the office was not present and there would be no answer until 16 April.

Honduras

Callejas on Kidnapping of Minors, Education Sector, Corruption

PA2004005493 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa— President Rafael Leonardo Callejas stated on 18 April that he is concerned about the dramatic reports by Liberal Party Deputy Rosario Godoy on the kidnapping of minors and the trafficking in human organs. He added that clear evidence should be provided because the police have been unable to find anything.

"We acknowledge the report and we will investigate (the traffic of minors), but the issue should be handled seriously rather than for publicity," the president stated during an interview at the village of Ojojona, Francisco Morazan Department.

He added that "the police were unable to find anything" following a report about the discovery of a child's frozen body in a container. Nevertheless, he said he acknowledges the information revealed by the Liberal Party deputy and member of the Women's Commission at the National Congress. Callejas said: We must strictly and thoroughly deal with the inhuman treatment suffered by children when they are kidnapped and dissected. People "should not only report a kidnapping (because that causes interest in our society). We need more evidence or action."

Despite limited information, Callejas said he wholeheartedly supports the commission to be established by the National Congress with the participation of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Health Ministry (to increase supervision and care in public hospitals' pediatric and maternity wards).

Asked about the labor crisis looming ahead in the education sector, the president upheld the government's adamant refusal to negotiate with groups with no official status. This attitude has been termed antidemocratic by these groups.

Referring to the case, he said his administration has already outlined its policy and he has summoned an education and finance commission to analyze "the teachers' salary demands."

Callejas said he intends to "achieve a consensus among all the groups" and grant an increase in excess of 200 million lempiras; but he criticized independent teachers' groups because "some of them endorse a confrontation with the people. They will soon realize no one supports them."

Talking about the 30 percent salary increase demanded by the Professional Association for Improving Teaching in Honduras and the Professional Association of Honduran High School Teachers, as opposed to the 16 percent offered by the government, Callejas said: "I cannot pledge the state's money, but the increase is possible in three or four years—not in one year as they would want."

President Callejas also warned that he will fire all corrupt officials reported by the Fiscal Audit Commission. He added that officials will be sent to prison if "irrefutable evidence" is presented against them. Referring to the work carried out by the commission, President Callejas said "all those listed in the report as corrupt officials will be fired, and their cases will be turned over to the Attorney General's Office for legal action."

Callehas said his struggle against this scourge is historical because it had never been countered with force. He added that the most important issue "is that the people will learn about the report and they will identify all those involved (even if they are not in prison). These persons will be treated like pariahs and they will be ostracized by society."

"I will personally release the report in May. I will adopt measures to fire these people from government, and I will turn over the information to the Attorney General's Office for necessary legal measures," the president stated.

President Callejas said every possible measure must be adopted to control inflation, which has continued to rise within the last three months.

"This is a political year so certain groups will take advantage of the situation and will make decisions that affect the taxpayers," Callejas added. He explained that "the Economy Ministry has issued an appeal to companies producing, storing, and marketing basic products under our control. A consensus must be reached concerning prices."

Referring to the Trifinio Plan [a project involving the social and economic development of towns located on the Honduran, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan borders], he said that the good thing about an integration project is that it must be maintained; repairs must be made when necessary, and its coverage must be expanded to include Nicaragua. This will be confirmed in an upcoming presidential summit in Managua, Nicaragua.

Callejas, Military Officers on Keeping F-5 Fighter Planes

PA1904235493 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Armed Forces Chief Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir said on 16 April, apparently referring to a suggestion that the costly F-5 fighter planes be sold, that "there are people who are bent on

strong and demagogic external and internal campaigns to reduce to a minimum the dissuasive and combative capacity of the Honduran Armed Forces."

Air Force Commander General Hector Castro Cabus said "we view with concern how senseless people are attacking with demolishing force national institutions by showing disrespect to the president, disregarding the legitimacy of the Judicial Branch, denigrating the armed institution, accommodating the Constitution to personal or group interests, and encouraging disorder and anarchy."

The officers made these comments during the Honduran Air Force 62d anniversary celebrations held in an Air Force hangar. The ceremony was attended by central government officials, Tegucigalpa Archbishop Oscar Andres Rodriguez, Air Force commanders from neighboring countries, and military attaches from the various embassies, among other people.

Discua Elvir said that those who join "the campaign" to reduce the potential of the Air Force "believe sovereignty and integrity can be defended by statements, verbal condemnations, demonstrations, and pamphlets."

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas sided with these ideas by saying that "undoubtedly there are sectors that advocate replacing and eliminating the Armed Forces, which had another outlook of the world in the past. Now, in the face of the current reality of democracy as a way of government, they are not aware that anarchy emerges in an institutional vacuum."

"As the saying goes, to fish in troubled waters," added Callejas.

Discua Elvir also said that the Air Force is essential and "we can see with patriotic emotion that Honduras has airplanes to defend its airspace and brave crews who dignify their profession and know their duty."

Castro Cabus added that "fortunately for Honduras, the senseless and wayward are not yet a majority; there is still time for reason to win."

The president said that "eliminating our Air Force is not the correct route because a whirlwind of violence, not peace and tranquillity, will result."

"These small groups do not accept democracy is the legitimate transfer of responsibility of self-government to the people and seem to seek, instead, a road that is not within the constitutional framework of democracy," added Callejas.

The president stated: "I want to leave perfectly clear that the government is aware of how meaningful it is to work together to adapt our Armed Forces, not only in armaments and actions, but in its beliefs, and to insert it in the world's new path."

Callejas said that "now more than ever our Armed Forces are a determining factor for the country's life" and added that "it will not be the loud cry of those who do not understand this reality that will make us change our policy in attaining our goal of strengthening our system of government."

At the ceremony the Air Force commander handed the president and the Armed Forces chief a replica of an F-5 airplane.

* Archbishop's Communique Urges Ecological Reforms

93CA0091A Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 5 Mar 93 p 59

[Text] The following is a communique issued by the bishop and the Presbytery of the Juticalpa Diocese concerning the ecological crisis in Olancho.

Introduction

The earth is the work of the Word of God and the presence of the Spirit, which since the beginning has hovered over all that was created (see Genesis 1, 2). The plan of creation was a perfect work produced by the hand of God. Man, on the other hand, is destroying nature—a sin that affects his relationship with God and with all of creation. For this reason, all mankind is suffering the consequences of the ecological imbalance, a reality that is also affecting our nation to an alarming extent.

Aware of the concern felt by our civilian and military authorities about the environmental situation, we, the bishop and his presbytery in the Juticalpa Diocese, are taking advantage of the new platform for dialogue created by the ecological crisis, and we are looking into the natural assets and the waste thereof.

While the church, in its social doctrine, recognizes and has always promoted the progress of the peoples and the sensible and scientific exploitation of natural resources, it warns that a certain balance must be maintained between development and the environment. We must ask ourselves if all of the economic aspirations are legitimate, and who will pay for the costs of development. And, furthermore, for whom its benefits are destined. Development must be subordinate to ethical criteria. An ecological ethic entails the abandonment of a utilitarianist and individualistic morality. We cannot have development that benefits minorities to the detriment of the vast impoverished majorities. Christians, as members of society, have no exemption from responsibility for the developmental models that have led to the current environmental and social disasters (see Santo Domingo Conclusions, No. 169).

We Denounce the Abuses

1. The irrational felling of our forest trees for profit in violation of the forestry laws in effect, in particular those pertaining to preserves and reforestation.

2. The lack of adherence to constitutional law and, in some cases, the will to apply it to all equally, without political, economic, or social distinctions; and the imperfections inherent in the forestry laws because of the lack of penalty provisions for those who commit specific abuses in obvious violation of these laws.

3. The exemption of private businesses from the reforestation law. Despite the high volume of lumber being marketed, there are no reforestation laws binding upon all lumbering enterprises.

4. We deplore the role played by the COHDEFOR [Honduran Corporation for Forest Development] as a government agency with the task of protecting and preserving the forests, while at the same time being responsible for the marketing of their products. This is a situation that lends itself readily to the development of an unjust structure vulnerable to major abuse, since it has been transformed into a mercantile establishment and is allocating clandestine privileges to powerful exploiters of timber products.

5. The excessive exploitation of the forests resulting from the granting of political-governmental permits as remuneration or as a privilege to private individuals, who are paid by this means for their political activism.

6. The granting of permits to fell small trees to the owners of matchstick factories, who generally raze forest land.

7. We regret the proposed modernization law that puts our coniferous forests up for auction, and thus, when implemented, contributes to and complicates the ecological crisis because of the diversion of the winter waters. This situation is increasing the economic wealth of the leading lumber enterprises and posing a serious threat to the sources of drinking water and crop planting in the rural communities.

8. The evident lack of agrarian reform that takes the common good and the proper maintenance and preservation of land into account so as to avoid the current situation, in which the land in extensive, flat, fertile, and not infrequently idle areas is in the hands of a few owners made powerful by the laws. This is the basic cause of migratory farming and the need for the peasants to emigrate to less productive land. They are being forced into the forests or the periphery of the areas protected by the law as "conservation centers."

9. The indirect actions that use the peasants as tools and result in extensive livestock-raising projects that pose a threat to the environment.

10. The high cost of living, particularly with regard to farm supplies, that forces the peasants to resort to traditional planting methods, thus destroying the environmental soil.

11. The burning of forests resulting from archaic crop-raising practices, and the vengeful attitude of the peasants, who know that the timber is not theirs.

We Suffer the Consequences

1. The lack of rainfall, which is seriously affecting planting and destroying drinking-water sources, because the forests near the sources and the riverbanks are being cut down.

2. The disappearance of the fauna because of the destruction of their living environment.

3. The pollution of the environment and the proliferation of diseases.

4. The excessive migratory mobility of the peasants, which is breaking up the family and society and causing innumerable social problems, including migratory farming, exploitation, the flight of productive forces, lack of security, population displacement, and impoverishment.

The Solutions We Propose

1. That government officials promote an integral ecological policy based on a law that takes the abuses mentioned and the reality in which we live into account, in order to protect and preserve the environment, postulating the interdependence of social problems and seeking a solution in the causes and not the results of the ecological crisis.

2. That we improve the laws establishing controls over natural resources so as to make them workable, and that we implement them rigorously.

3. That the local communities be allowed to benefit from our national resources through participation in open municipal council meetings, so that they can play a role in the making of decisions and enjoy a part of the tax income.

4. That private enterprises be required by law to develop the local communities in which natural resources are being exploited, providing benefits such as, among other things, roads, drinking-water facilities, housing, and communal centers.

5. That timber-exploitation workers and their families be protected by laws that guarantee them proper equipment for their work and the resources required to prevent workshop and labor accidents, as well as fair wages, social security, special risk insurance depending on the labor post, and the right to establish trade unions.

6. That land with proper titles be returned to the displaced peasants, or that they be relocated on good land.

7. That the task of teaching everyone, beginning with children and young people, the value of life and the interdependence of the various aspects of nature, be undertaken.

8. That spirituality be cultivated so as to regain the sense of God, always present in nature.

9. That all of the people of Olancho, together with the civilian and military authorities, recognize the priority of and support the national Platano River Biosphere Preserve project.

10. That all of the groups with power in Olancho launch and participate in a public forum on the ecological crisis.

Published in Juticalpa.

* AHMA Reports 29 Percent Drop in Exports

93CA0091C Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 3 Mar 93 p 20

[Text] San Pedro Sula—The exports made by assembly line industries in 1992 declined by 29 percent, Juan de Dios Herrera, executive director of the Honduran Maquiladora [Assembly Line] Industrialists' Association (AHMA) said yesterday.

According to the figures announced by Herrera, this country exported 3.5 million dozens of the various products produced by the assembly line industry factories, while in 1991 the total was 6.6 million dozen, and that in 1992 10.4 million dozen.

Herrera added that between 1990 and 1991, the country achieved a rate of growth of 87 percent, but in 1991-92, the figure dropped to 58 percent, representing a reduction in yield to 29 percent of the total for the preceding period. This percentage is very low in view of the fact that the basic effort made has involved promotion of the assembly line industries.

He noted that Honduras is one of the countries with the lowest growth rate in this sector, since a comparison with the rest of the countries in the Caribbean Basin using this method, such as the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, and El Salvador, shows that they are rather well-advanced in this field.

In 1987, the year in which the assembly line industries began to operate, Honduras obtained a total of $41.9 million from exports. The total in 1988 was $62 million; that in 1989, $86.7 million; that in 1990, $112.8 million; and that for 1991, $195.5 million; while in 1992, exports brought in $365 million.

These figures are alarming when we realize that other nations, such as the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica, have achieved double and triple these figures. This is because in those countries, different conditions favoring investors are offered. Naturally, investors choose the best localities in which to establish and operate the assembly line industries.

This official said that a comparison of the wages paid in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras shows that they are highest here, since Guatemala pays 60 cents on the dollar per hour, El Salvador 48 cents, and Honduras 64 cents. Thus this country has the most expensive manpower in the Central American isthmus, while wages in the Caribbean are higher because of the quality of the work done.

But there is an unusual phenomenon, Herrera said. "Although Honduras is the country with the highest wages, it is here that the total paid out in terms of millions of dollars is lowest, because in countries like Guatemala and El Salvador, there are more industrial parks and, therefore, more people working. The result is that the percentage of dollars invested in wages there is larger than that in Honduras," he said.

According to the statistical data, total wage payments in Guatemala amount to $112.896 billion per year, while the figure for El Salvador is $77.898 billion, and that for Honduras $67.201 billion per year.

Answering his own question as to why this is true, Herrera said that it is simply because these countries offer better conditions for foreign investment. They do not impose procedural hindrances, they offer better guarantees, and the governments provide their industries with preferential treatment because of the large number of jobs they provide. This serves to reduce the unemployment prevailing in the Latin American nations.

Herrera expressed the view that the country should make an effort to become competitive in the field of assembly line industry products, because if it does not, it will fall behind and will not have sufficient capacity to attract foreign investment. Such investment requires modern communications, including roads, maritime ports, telephone service, and facilities for installation. Governments must also offer tax advantages, because the businessmen in this sector make a contribution to the battle against unemployment.

This AHMA official said that at present 38,000 individuals are directly employed in the industrial parks, free zones, and businesses operating under the Temporary Import Regime in this country, and it is expected that the number will reach 60,000 this year.

Herrera raised the question as to why the government has not engaged these businessmen in dialogue when it comes to approving the minimum wage adjustments, since as employers, their desire is for agreement and harmony on this matter, rather than having adjustments imposed on them as is always done.

The Honduran Maquiladora Industrialists' Association was established in 1991, and its members are 66 owners of assembly line industries that produce clothing, although there are 115 assembly line industry enterprises of different types in the country.

Nicaragua

President Chamorro Appeals for Reconciliation, Pardon

PA1904202293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has appealed for reconciliation and pardon as essential premises to rebuild the country. She spoke during a ceremony inaugurating Radio Maranata at Managua's national stadium. Speaking before a crowd of approximately 4,000 persons, President Chamorro said that only by working together can the country progress, considering that many countries are watching to see how we behave.

[Begin Chamorro recording] Dear brothers: It is a great pleasure and satisfaction for me to address you and to extend a brotherly embrace to you. All of you are Nicaraguans, as I am; you are Christians, as I am; you are of different religions, but that is irrelevant. The principal thing is brotherhood. We are living a moment in Nicaragua, following the change that took place three years ago. You all know what that change was. It was the change to democracy, the change from sadness to happiness, the change from weapons to books. That is the main thing. Better yet, I would describe it as reconciliation and pardon. That is something that I won't mind if they attribute to me.

I always ask that we forgive one another, because we have to live in peace. We must live in peace so that we can make our fatherland the fatherland that we all want. I see all of you here are happy and want to progress. That is the fatherland I want for you. That is how I want all persons of different religions, of different states, of different countries, to come to know Nicaragua, to see what we Nicaraguans are doing for the good of the nation.

I want you to know that you are not alone. We are not alone, because I feel that we have many brothers; many countries of the whole world have their eyes set on us, to see how we behave, to see if we are killing one another, as it is said. That is not true. It is true that we must show a little bit of understanding and a little bit of education. We must become acquainted with one another. It is necessary to have reconciliation and pardon for that.

There is something that I am very satisfied with and happy about. I read in the newspapers that two of the assassins who killed my husband were released on 19 April. One of them served his prison sentence and the other one is quite old. God willing, these men will have been completely pardoned for the crime committed against my husband. May they begin a new life and return to their homes. That is what we must all do. I forgave them from the very first moment.

Dear friends, let us live in Nicaragua and work together for the sake of our fatherland, because our fatherland is free and sovereign. [end recording]

UNO Coalition Elects Managua Mayor Aleman Coordinator

PA1904212093 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 1

[Article by Alvaro Cruz Rojas]

[Text] The National Opposition Union [UNO] on 16 April elected Managua Mayor Dr. Arnoldo Aleman coordinator of the UNO coalition. This election surprised some political circles, but Aleman represents the consensus candidate among the ten parties of the alliance.

A coalition source reported Aleman's candidacy was first promoted by six of the 10 parties and then was supported by the entire coalition. The source stated: "His candidacy cleared up the elections situation." The source characterized the parties that promoted Aleman's candidacy as "moderate" and mentioned the Christian Democrats [political party as published], the National Conservative Party [PNC], the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, the Liberal Constitutionalist Party, and the National Action Party as some of these parties.

During the same session, UNO appointed Dr. Virgilio Godoy as the coalition's official spokesman at the national dialogue. UNO also established a board of directors, which includes Adolfo Jarquin Ortel as vice coordinator, Dr. Humberto Dona as secretary, and Reinaldo Hernandez as treasurer.

Mayor Aleman will be UNO coordinator for two months. The outgoing coordinator, Wilfredo Navarro, said he is pleased with the election of Aleman, whom he described as "the consensus candidate." Navarro denied reports that Aleman's election will lead to changes in the coalition's position.

PNC President Roger Mendieta Alfaro stated his party supported Aleman's candidacy. He said he is optimistic that this election will result in the UNO having a stronger consensus position "to search for solutions to the country's problems."

Ex-National Assembly President Views Government, UNO Dialogue Agenda

PA1804142693 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1530 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Interview with former National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar by unidentified reporter at the station studio in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] The main topic of interest this morning is preparations for dialogue. President Chamorro has agreed to meet with the National Opposition Union's [UNO] National Political Council on 3 May. The community wonders what is being planned for this initial phase of dialogue with the president. We understand that in the first meeting UNO held on 15 April, or the day before, the following issues were

selected for discussion with President Chamorro: human rights, state reorganization, Army reorganization, and similar issues. It appears that there has been some flexibility on UNO's part. Why not include in this first phase what the people have been demanding; that is, the request for the resignations of Antonio Lacayo and Humberto Ortega. The clamor for their resignations on 28 February at the Plaza of the Republic spread like wildfire to all corners of the nation. What do you have to say about that?

[Cesar] I want to clear up....[pauses] First, I thank you for the opportunity you have offered me again in the "Nine O'Clock Surprise" to speak to the Nicaraguan people. Now, I want to clarify that we have not given up the demand for their resignations. The demands we read to the Nicaraguan people at the Plaza of the Republic on 28 February have not changed. The agenda we approved two days ago is an agenda of general issues in which those specific demands are included. For example, when we talk about the Armed Forces issue in the agenda approved by UNO on 15 April, it includes the removal of Humberto Ortega from his post. When we talk about reorganizing the state's powers, it includes the reorganization of the Supreme Court of Justice; the Supreme Electoral Council; the cabinet, including Antonio Lacayo's removal; and the solution of the Legislative Assembly problem, including a new board of directors. None of those demands have been put aside. They are still valid and firm.

Those demands were unanimously approved by the 10 UNO parties. This is, however, a broader agenda. Even though few issues are included, they are quite substantial. Each of the issues has components that must be discussed. For example, the human rights issue includes a clearing up of the political crimes that have taken place against former Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] members and individuals who have been murdered as well as punishment for those found guilty. It also includes the dismissal from the Police and Army of those officers responsible for human rights violations. It includes the need for recommendations made by the Tripartite Commission, which comprises the church, the OAS-International Commission of Support and Verification, and the government, to be implemented. This also includes support for a Truth Commission to verify human rights violations by uncovering clandestine cemeteries. One of the independent human rights associations has just uncovered two more graves....

[Reporter, interrupting] You mean the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights....

[Cesar, interrupting] That is right, two clandestine graves....

[Reporter interrupting] Prisoners wearing their uniforms with their hands tied were found in those graves....

[Cesar interrupting] Can you imagine? Each one of the issues included on the UNO's agenda has a number of subdivisions, chapters, and articles, and they are all under one generic umbrella. As I was saying before, when we talk about the Armed Forces and the Army, everything related to those institutions are included.

[Reporter] Very well.

[Cesar] Now, I want to emphasize something. There is an issue called Verification and Guarantee Mechanisms on the agenda. UNO believes that little would be gained if agreements are reached without mechanisms to guarantee compliance with them. We cannot forget that this government has followed the Sandinist tradition of signing and not honoring its commitments. It has not kept its promises to the RN. A few minutes ago we heard Commander Invisible [Rodolfo Ampie] mention that fact. The government has not kept the promises it made to the private sector, the democratic labor unions, or UNO. It has not fulfilled a substantial number of agreements that were signed and that have not been forgotten. Therefore, it would be useless to go to the dialogue, make all efforts to benefit the people, and then reach agreements that later are not kept. That is where the issue of agreement verification and guarantee mechanisms comes in. UNO has decided to propose a commission made up of three parts that will verify and guarantee the agreements. The commission would be made up of the Catholic Church, the United Nations, and the OAS. That way we would have verification and guarantee mechanisms that would allow all parties to feel certain that the agreements reached will not be in vain. So, in my introduction I have cleared up matters and given you this explanation of the dialogue.

[Reporter, interrupting] I think the explanation was very timely. I do not think the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] would disagree with this verification commission. We have heard that Sergio Ramirez says he agrees that international organizations should verify the next elections as well.

[Cesar] I also think the FSLN cannot oppose this because that would make it very obvious that they want to play with the dialogue. It will be very difficult for any of the dialogue participants to reject the idea of verification and guarantee mechanisms. Please allow me to refer to certain more general aspects of the problem.

The good news is that at last UNO's dialogue with the president is about to take place. I say at last because we know this dialogue attempt started in November 1991. I am concerned because the country has lost practically a year and a half without any problems being resolved. In fact, problems have worsened to their current levels simply because the Executive Branch rejected dialogue with UNO. At the beginning of 1992, even though dialogue was not rejected, attempts were made to manipulate it with invitations extended not only to UNO but to those gentlemen who had abandoned UNO, who call themselves the Center Group, which of course UNO could not accept. They decided to walk out on us; so we no longer consider them a part of UNO. We later received another invitation, but it still played around a

bit. Then came another letter from Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo saying that the talks were to be held with him. UNO replied to all these by stating: Madam, the dialogue must be serious and respectful. The dialogue is between the president and her government team and the coalition of parties that placed her in power. Finally on 14 April we received a letter from the president, which is what should have happened long ago, a serious, to the point, and respectful invitation to a dialogue between the president and UNO.

That is very good news for the country, but I am worried it may make people believe things have been resolved. I see too many expectations surrounding this dialogue. That is dangerous because the disappointment could be very serious. We have been warning that the dialogue.-...[pauses] UNO is a fervent believer in the dialogue as a civic tool to resolve the country's crisis, to lead Nicaragua out of the crisis it is in. Nicaraguan tradition, however, has been that dialogue is used by the government not to resolve problems but to force their opponents to give in or to divide them. UNO, aware of this, prepares itself for the dialogue to be serious and frank and for it to provide guarantees that the agreements will be fulfilled. If that is not the case, this dialogue will not produce the benefits we want for the Nicaraguan people.

I do not think we should be too hopeful yet. It is very good news that we can start this dialogue, but it is no guarantee that it will be successful.

[Reporter] Or that it will take place with the necessary normalcy.

[Cesar] That is correct. We cannot forget that the origin of the national crisis is the focal point for the solution. Someone asked me on 15 April: Well, what do you think is the purpose of this dialogue? I replied, In my opinion this dialogue has only one purpose—to end the cogovernment, which is the origin of the national crisis. All points on the UNO agenda are intended to end the cogovernment. UNO is not seeking any share in the power. UNO wants promises made to the Nicaraguan people during the elections to be kept and thus resolve the crisis that burdens them every day.

The final objective—and we will not forget or lose sight of it—is to help solve our extreme poverty, improve employment opportunities, solve the difficult situation our agriculture sector is experiencing, and halt the social deterioration of our cities, in general terms, what we call the gigantic social predicament in Nicaragua. We have not lost sight of the fact that the purpose is to accomplish the objective we have set out to accomplish. Experience has demonstrated, however, that the government wanted to solve all those problems by governing with the FSLN. What has reality taught us now that the administration is about to enter its fourth year? That the attempt failed, that the joint government with the FSLN, even if they want to deny it....

[Reporter, interrupting] [question indistinct]?

[Cesar] I have heard statements by....

[Reporter, interrupting] [question indistinct]?

[Cesar] I have heard statements by FSLN activists denying the joint government, just like a husband who has been caught cheating on his wife tends to deny the obvious facts. That is the same position the FSLN adopts.

[Reporter] Within the FSLN the leadership is being pressured into saying if they are going to continue with the joint government or what the FSLN is going to do....

[Cesar interrupting] The fact is that all Nicaraguans know full well that the cogovernment exists. In addition, they also know that it is the reason behind the national crisis. Therefore, if the issue of joint government is not solved or eliminated, we will never be able to solve the urgent needs of the Nicaraguan people. There are so many issues to solve such as poverty, unemployment, housing shortages, as well as an inadequate health system. In addition, there is the serious problem of the demobilized resistance to consider. A few minutes ago we were able to hear what Comandante Invisible had to say about this issue. Therefore, the UNO is perparing seriously for this dialogue with the president of the Republic. We have already approved our agenda, our strategy; we have outlined our mechanisms and we know what we are looking for. I would like to take the opportunity to transmit to the Nicaraguan people that at this time it would be inappropriate to create false expectations. We have not even sat down yet. The only thing we have so far is the beginnings of a dialogue. Let us hope that the dialogue can result in something positive that will lead to resolving the crisis. The central focus must be to end the cogovernment, which is the origin of the national crisis. [passage ommitted]

[Reporter] Invitations to the 3 May dialogue continue to be sent out. It is my understanding that it is being called the great dialogue. My opinion is that a great dialogue includes all the productive sectors that form a nation. I have just heard Mr. Cesar say, however, that dialogue is going to take place between the government and the UNO. Then, my point is that it will not be a great dialogue because the FSLN will not participate. If the FSLN does participate then we have a joint government. In other words, the Executive Branch with the Sandinist Front against the UNO. I would like you to clarify this for me.

[Cesar] I believe your question is quite appropiate because there is some confusion with respect to the dialogue. The UNO position has always been that before a national dialogue can take place there must be a dialogue between the president of the Republic who came into office as a result of the coalition support and the UNO coalition that has been forced into the opposition precisely because of the joint government with the Sandinists.

A president-UNO dialogue is indispensable if there is going to be a successful national dialogue. The UNO position has finally been accepted. What is going to take place on 3 May is the dialogue between the president of the Republic and the UNO. If that dialogue ends on a positive note, the UNO will be able to participate in a great national dialogue. By then the UNO will have approved the participation of representatives from the various chambers of commerce, as well as union workers, in addition to the country's political forces.

The national dialogue should result not only in political agreements but also in what could be called a social pact. This would certainly lead the country out of the crisis. It would be useless to participate, however, in a national dialogue if the political disagreements between the president of the Republic and the UNO persit. I repeat, those disagreements are quite detrimental. It is the decision she took to govern jointly with the FSLN and that joint government, which is the cause of the crisis that Nicaragua is going through. If that joint government can be removed in the talks between the president and the UNO, political conditions will be given for solutions to be found in the national dialogue between representatives from the different sectors.

It is an illusion to endorse the position adopted by some Sandinist leaders that the only issue to talk about is the economic issue. It is an illusion because that position has already been proven to be false in practice. The Executive Branch said the same thing during the past three years. At one time the Executive Branch said that the political problems are strictly an issue of the political parties. What the Nicaraguan people want is work and so forth. That is what the people want. That is what the political parties also want for the people, but an economic reactivation cannot be accomplished without political stability and clear rules of the games. That has been demonstrated. This is why the UNO first insisted on a dialogue with the president of the Republic to end with the joint government and all obstacles. It will then be possible to proceed with the great dialogue with all political, business, and union sectors that will allow economic reactivation, employment, investments, and the country's economic growth. [passage ommitted]

Opposition Leader Pastora Views Decision To Run for President

PM1904135093 Madrid YA in Spanish 11 Apr 93
Revista del Domingo section pp ii-iii

[Interview with opposition leader Eden Pastora by Conchi Gonzalez in Costa Rica; date not given]

[Excerpt] Eden Pastora, Commander Zero, the man who fought in Nicaragua's last two wars, first against the Somoza dictatorship and then against the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], despite having been the leader in the victory of Sandinism, wants to be president of Nicaragua.

From a modest house in Costa Rica, the country that has been his home since he decided to exchange war for shark fishing, the man with the greatest number of enemies in the South American continent gives a broad description of his political project.

[Gonzalez] Mr. Pastora, it looks as though you have finally decided to exchange arms for politics.

[Pastora] That is right. I have now embarked on the greatest of all my crazy endeavors. Imagine organizing a party with the responsibility of organizing a country; first of all with no money and then after Somoza-ism and the FSLN, when everybody is suspicious, frustrated, and feeling deceived or cheated, and, from an economic viewpoint, nobody has any money. The only people left with any money are the FSLN leaders. Thanks to an alliance between the United States and the FSLN to set up this joke of a government we have. Imagine the government of a lady with no party, with no deputies, and with no cogent ideological program—all those things together.

[Gonzalez] What needs changing in Violeta Chamorro's government?

[Pastora] We must criticize its lack of honesty; we must call for openness; we must criticize its nepotism, the coalition government, or the FSLN government. But who is responsible for what is happening, the FSLN or the opposition? I blame the opposition because who negotiated the transition protocol? Who agreed to disarm the Contras unconditionally? Alfredo Cesar [former Contra leader and presidential adviser]. He accepts Sandinist laws; he accepts everything.

[Gonzalez] And with your political project, what is going to change in Nicaragua?

[Pastora] So far we only have a minimum program. What we are seeking is to guarantee honesty, because the people of Nicaragua no longer believe in politicians, parties, or ideologies; in Nicaragua there is mistrust and frustration. Sixty percent of Nicaraguans are not interested in any political ideology. Nicaragua is a country of parties without men and men without parties. After the collapse of socialism, after the collapse of capitalism, liberalism has not provided any answer; conservatism is not attracting any attention. So the important thing now is nationalism, sovereignty, freedom, democracy, the people's struggle, a face in Nicaragua guaranteeing honesty, because what the liberals said was great; what Somoza said was great and what the FSLN said was even better; the problem arises when they get into power and they no longer see themselves as servants of the people but as lords and masters, and they use power to get rich.

[Gonzalez] What are the fundamental guidelines of your political program, the Movement for Solidarity Action [Movimiento de Accion Solidaria]?

[Pastora] It is based on the people's struggles. It seeks to pass laws guaranteeing good relations between workers

and bosses, capitalism with a more human face and workers with a greater sense of responsibility, a state guaranteeing social justice and private property, so that there is national and foreign investment, but with the state making the rules for fair competition between the two and making sure they do not cancel each other out.

[Gonzalez] And what about foreign relations?

[Pastora] We have to fight with one eye on Europe, Mexico, Latin America, the Arab world, and even the U.S. liberals, because in the United States there are liberal sectors that have their own ideas about what good relations between the United States and Latin America should be. I do not blame what happened in Nicaragua on the Soviet Union or the United States. I blame their servants at home [in Nicaragua], because there are no masters without servants at home.

[Gonzalez] Mr. Pastora, you allowed an opportunity to go by in 1990, and now that you are 55, instead of carrying on fishing, you want to run for president. What made you take that decision?

[Pastora] In my country the liberals have failed; the conservatives, the FSLN, and the UNO [National Opposition Union] have all failed; there has been no honesty in any of the politicians, neither in the UNO nor the FSLN; there is a crisis in social behavior, a crisis of leadership, of charisma, of policies for young people, of policies for women. There is no spirit of nationalism, of sincerity, of frankness, of love of country. There is a spirit of vendetta, hate, and revenge; so we must intervene.

[Gonzalez] Who is backing you in this new "crazy" venture of yours, as you called it?

[Pastora] My backers include agricultural engineers, lawyers, economists, new people, because all the politicians from the past are burned out. I tell them that those who come to me seeking solutions to their personal problems had better not come; those who come with a love of their country, who want to feel proud to be Nicaraguan; let them come to give, not receive.

[Gonzalez] How do you intend to fund your campaign?

[Pastora] Look, there are lots of people who still believe in me, and because they are aware of my intentions, they help me with what they can afford. They are friends, private citizens. Friends from Mexico, from Costa Rica, from Nicaragua, and from Spain too; but I would like to stress that it is not the Spanish Government, nor the PSOE [Spanish Socialist Workers Party], nor even friends of the PSOE; they are shipowners from Vigo, industrialists from Zaragoza, friends of mine in Madrid, in Barcelona. They are men who, if I say to them: "Friends, I am suffocating; send me $1,000," will do so.

[Gonzalez] And what do you and your wife live on, Mr. Pastora?

[Pastora] Partly on what I receive from my friends. Since I started this project a year ago, I only live on what they give me.

[Gonzalez] In other words, on charity.

[Pastora] No. I am a social fighter and that is the way I earn my honest living, with friends.

[Gonzalez] And what do they get in exchange?

[Pastora] The satisfaction of helping a friend, considering they are friends.

[Gonzalez] Are they totally disinterested?

[Pastora] The law of interest is a law of nature. I believe that their interest is that tomorrow I should smile on them, I should offer them my friendship. And they day I triumph, they will be happy because their friend has triumphed. Their reward will be their happiness. They know me and they know I am not going to reward them with money or in any material way. They know I am not going to reward them with anything that might violate the dignity of a people, or of a person, with anything dishonest.

[Gonzalez] In all sincerity, do you see yourself as president of Nicaragua?

[Pastora] Yes. I see myself as president, and I see myself clamping down on thieving politicians. When I told my wife: "Darling, I am going to Nicaragua. I am going to organize a party, and I am going to run in the next elections," she told me I had a home and two children and said something that struck me a lot. She said to me: "Could it be that you refuse to die in anonymity after fame and glory?" But when I took her to Nicaragua and she saw how many people asked me to do something with the experience and knowledge I had acquired, she said I was right. And so I won that battle.

[Gonzalez] According to some commentators, Violeta Chamorro is going to leave the government to the FSLN.

[Pastora] Oh no! What the FSLN seeks is chaos, so that the chaos of its time in power diminishes by comparison with what we are living through, and they are using Dona Violeta as a mask. Today people are beginning to say that we were better off with the FSLN. As time goes by, the FSLN is recovering from its political mistakes, because people have no historical memory, and even the gravest mistakes get blurred by comparison with the setbacks, dishonesty, and incapacity of Dona Violeta's government; that is why the FSLN has no interest in removing her from office. It loses nothing but gains as time goes by.

[Gonzalez] It seems that the armed groups in Nicaragua are less and less resigned to the situation your country is going through. Does that mean that the war is not over?

[Pastora] I believe that it is over, because there is freedom. The extremists [recontras] and everything

going on at the moment are nothing but a hangover from war. The people do not want war, although there are those who are hungry and see the solution in taking up weapons. There are two lost generations of men who fought in the war against Somoza and then against the FSLN, and the only thing they know is how to handle a rifle; they are disorientated and whenever any difficulty arises, they pick up their arms, but there are no national or foreign forces backing them, nor do they have any ideological or political raison d'etre. [passage omitted]

Colombian Drug Cartels Said Recruiting Ex-EPS Officers

PA1804225793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Apr 93 pp 1, 10

[Article by Noel Irias]

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army (EPS) High Command has alerted its high-ranking officers about "a large and systematic campaign by Colombian drug cartels to recruit citizens who have served as EPS officers." If possible, these recruits should be active military, a military institution source has reported.

The recruitment of former Nicaraguan military members for drug trafficking is one of the main goals of the Cali and Medellin Cartels. A retired EPS high-ranking officer said this is "because they have military experience, know the area well, are discreet and disciplined, and what is more important, they are unemployed."

In February, Costa Rican police reported the arrest of a group of multinational drug traffickers, among which was a former Nicaraguan military member. In March, three Nicaraguan citizens—who at some time belonged to the EPS—were arrested for drug trafficking.

On 26 March, Edwin Rivera Molina was arrested at Augusto C. Sandino Airport for transporting 40 kg of 93 percent pure cocaine.

Rivera served in the EPS, where he had achieved the grade of captain, until 1991 when he retired from active duty as part of the institution's reduction. On 2 March, Nicaraguan citizens Mario Alberto Sanchez Rojas, 30, and Pablo Jose Valle Vargas, 29, arrived at Miami International Airport on a NICA airline flight and were arrested for transporting 3.2 kg of heroin.

Both had served as Nicaraguan Air Force pilots until 1991, when they were dismissed in PL-1 [not further identified].

EPS spokesman Colonel Ricardo Wheelock emphatically said: "We know two Nicaraguans were arrested in Miami for drug trafficking. They have no links to the EPS. We have no comments regarding those citizens."

An analyst, who requested to remain anonymous, estimates that "the reduction of the EPS from 98,000 men in December 1989 to 15,500 in 1993, implies the dismissal of over 12,000 officials who have military training and academic education in diverse specialties, including intelligence and counterintelligence. In the eyes of the drug cartels, these men represent human resources not available in any other Latin American nation."

The Rivera, Sanchez, and Valle cases clearly demonstrate the cartels' tendency to recruit highly-trained personnel with military experience.

Sanchez served in the Air Force and retired with a rank of first lieutenant. He is a MiG-21 pilot and was graduated in the former USSR with a Red Diploma for academic excellence. He was head of the M-25 helicopter squad—the feared flying forts—in Punta Huete and received medals.

Valle was also an Air Force pilot and studied in the USSR. He received medals and retired with the rank of first lieutenant. Both men were considered "excellent combat pilots."

Rivera was an officer in the EPS Political Directorate and was a member of the National Council of Sandinist Youth. He received his education abroad.

In Rivera's first statement—which he later denied—he implicated Lieutenant Nestor Lopez, head of EPS Military Region 2. According to police sources, Lopez appeared before General Major Joaquin Cuadra and the head of the Military Intelligence Service to clear up the situation.

Our sources believe that the implication of Lopez was disinformation to protect other people. Among those Rivera would be protecting are active EPS members involved in a drug-trafficking network. All have high levels of training, among them, four former officers—including a former major dishonorably discharged—from the military institution's intelligence service.

Panama

Endara Condemns 'Terrorist' Attack Against Health Ministry

PA1804222293 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 18 Apr 93 p 1A

[Report by Eduardo Soto P. and Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara on 17 April condemned the terrorist act perpetrated on the evening of 16 April against the Health Ministry offices. Endara said (alluding to those demanding an amnesty law) that "things are not obtained through pressure but through dialogue."

Following this incident, the security corps throughout the country have been reinforced, it was confirmed at the Palace of the Herons.

The president, through his official spokesman Rene Hernandez, told this newspaper that many people want the approval of a general pardon that would benefit

former government officials. He added: "This will not be achieved through violent actions."

Health Minister Guillermo Rolla Pimentel also criticized the perpetrators of this terrorist attack, adding that it was carried out by those who favor an amnesty law. He warned that despite the panic caused among the more than 80 doctors who were in the building at the time of the attack, on 19 April "we will go back to work under the current conditions and with the same interest."

Rolla voiced his confidence that the terrorists are "those who collaborated with the regimes of Torrijos and Noriega."

The minister ruled out the possibility that the bomb placed at the Health Ministry installations is related to the latest political incidents within his party (Armulfist Party).

President Endara believes it is not possible to begin the discussion of the amnesty draft bill at the Legislative Assembly amid the atmosphere of violence the country is experiencing.

Alberto Cigarruista, Legislative Assembly vice president, stated that he will propose that the chief executive decree a pardon for former and current government officials, as well as Christian Democratic Party members, in strictly political cases.

The Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) on 17 April began the investigations to determine the kind of explosive used in the 16 April attack against the Health Ministry.

A PTJ spokesman stated that the preliminary investigations are aimed at identifying the material that caused slight damage to a storeroom at the Health Ministry offices. Samples were taken at the site of the attack for analysis, the PTJ source added.

A few weeks ago similar attacks were reported against the residence of PDC Legislator Alfredo Ehlers and a vehicle of the Passport Directorate.

Given the terrorism investigations in Panama, the PTJ has prepared a list of persons who possess knowledge about explosives and will try to locate them.

A source at the Assistant Prosecutor's Office said that at least 200 persons appear on the aforementioned list.

Two U.S. Soldiers Said To Fire on Taxi Carrying Policemen

PA1904141793 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p A1

[Text] Two U.S. soldiers on 18 April fired on a moving taxi in which three Panamanian policemen were traveling on the road to Tocumen, a National Police source has reported.

The North Americans, who were traveling in a gray station wagon with license plate number 8-16854 and who were in civilian clothes, were apprehended on Ricardo J. Alfaro Avenue by the police.

So far the reasons for this incident, which alarmed citizens, are not yet known.

When this edition went to press, the suspects were detained at the police station in Betania, where liaison officers of Panama and the United States had shown up.

Foreign Minister on 'Criminal' Act

PA2004013993 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares described the shooting by two U.S. soldiers of a taxi carrying three Panamanian policemen on the Tocumen highway on 18 March as a criminal act.

[Begin Linares recording] Let us not turn into a diplomatic problem what must first be dealt with as a criminal action. The fact that the perpetrators were U.S. citizens does not give this a special status. Let us not give this a diplomatic status. I am telling you that Panama has jurisdiction. If they are soldiers stationed at the defense sites, there are two ways to proceed, according to the Canal treaties. In accordance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, if the investigative process falls under Panamanian jurisdiction, Panama could turn them over to the United States to be held at their base during the investigation. Panama would have to turn them over, except in cases dealing with homicide, rape, drug trafficking, or crimes against the security of the Panamanian state. I think that if this action of opening fire from a moving vehicle on another moving vehicle is considered by the appropriate authorities to be a crime against the security of the Panamanian state, then they could not be turned over. [end recording]

Major Milton Castillo, metropolitan area police commander, gives us further details about this incident.

[Begin recording] [Castillo] What occurred was a police incident in which the U.S. citizens opened fire on a moving taxi carrying two [as heard] passengers, who were policemen. Without any reason, they were the target of the shots. The police were able to locate the vehicle from which the shots were fired. We established the appropriate coordination with the liaison office and this is the channel through which the case is being handled.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Castillo] I repeat that the process for dealing with cases involving members of the U.S. Armed Forces is established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. [end recording]

It is not known how this case will be handled. It is a case that might have international repercussions.

Foreign Minister on Rejoining Rio Group

PA1804220893 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 18 Apr 93 p 3A

[Article by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares disclosed on 17 April that the "radical" stand adopted by Mexico and Brazil hindered a consensus among the Rio Group countries regarding Panama's request to rejoin the regional and diplomatic group as a full member.

According to Linares, during the most recent meeting of the group only Mexico and Brazil denied Panama's request to rejoin the Rio Group as a full member, while the ten other members supported the Panamanian Government's request.

Linares explained that even though the majority of the Rio Group members wanted to accept Panama, the request was denied because there were differences among the countries and the organization's decisions must be made by consensus, according to regulations.

The foreign minister said that in view of this situation, it was decided to appoint Panama as a representative of the Rio Group but through a Central American organization. This proposal, which was presented by Mexico, was approved.

Linares added that the positions adopted by Mexico and Brazil are influential in the Latin American community, particularly in these diplomatic cases.

The Panamanian foreign minister added that Mexico proposed Panama be appointed a representative through a Central American organization, knowing that Panama opposed that appointment.

Linares explained that the positions of Brazil and Mexico are different. Brazil requested consultations with several neighbors to reach a decision on the Panamanian case.

Linares admitted that the Rio Group's decision affects Panama's international relations because in the future the government will have to adopt a position "of solidarity toward countries that reciprocate that solidarity and show less solidarity toward countries that do otherwise."

Julio Linares reiterated that the Panamanian Government considers its request to rejoin the Rio Group a "closed chapter."

Six Dominicans Traveling With False U.S. Passports Detained

PA1804033693 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Immigration officials on 16 April detained six Dominicans traveling with false U.S. passports. The six false U.S. passports confiscated by the Immigration Department appeared to be originals and were described by authorities as near perfect copies.

The following Dominicans were detained at Tocumen International Airport: Enrique Aponte, Gabriel Capellan, Nelson Pena, Fernando Robles, Julio Villega, and Jacques (?Joana). All were deported to the Dominican Republic. One of the individuals said the passport had cost him $600 and that they are easy to obtain in the Dominican Republic. The men had come to Panama to do business. Here is what Immigration Director Antonio Dominguez said:

[Begin Dominguez recording] I do no think even the embassy officials could have detected that those passports were false. I feel very proud that despite the scarce personnel I have at the airport, the boys are doing their work. As you can see, those passports appear to be originals. Only through the immigration officials' experience and expertise have they been uncovered. [end recording]

Counternarcotics Operations Uncover Alleged Drug-Trafficking Network

PA1804032793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 1A

[Report by Juan ?Pritsiolas]

[Text] The counternarcotics operations under way in Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro have uncovered an alleged drug-trafficking network operating at a national level with the support of politicians, public officials, and businessmen.

Recent investigations have disclosed that agents from the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ), National Police, Customs Department, and Social Security Institute [CSS] act as distributors and members of the drug-trafficking group that operates in Veraguas, Chiriqui, Bocas del Toro, and Colon.

Investigations conducted by the Attorney General's Office and the Bocas del Toro Police Information Directorate have gathered testimonies indicating that Regional Customs Director Belarmino Chavez, CSS Regional Director Olmedo Rodriguez, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Sebastian Castillo, Inspectors [agency not specified] Alfredo Pineda and Glerroy Savage, and politician Luis Nuquez were allegedly aware that cocaine trafficking was taking place in the province.

Earl Sinclair, head of the Bocas del Toro Customs Department Technical Investigations Division, and Police Academy Director Rodrigo Sanchez Colon have also been implicated in the case.

Investigations have already led to several arrests in Bocas del Toro, while in Chiriqui the arrest of PTJ Chief Napoleon Ibarra has been ordered. District Attorney

Fernando Staff has issued an indictment against PTJ Chief Ibarra for allegedly forewarning the drug traffickers of the operation.

The investigations conducted in Bocas del Toro include depositions that point toward the owner of a pizza parlor in Changuinola, who is also a professor, as one of the cocaine distributors.

The professor mentioned in the investigation supplies to her buyers drugs hidden in video cassettes. A nightclub is also being mentioned as a distributing center.

Cocaine reaches Changuinola on ships arriving from Colon province. A ship christened Marrion is one of the vessels used to transport drugs from Colon as well as other ships carrying bananas. In addition, two beauty salons in David and Veraguas have been mentioned as drug suppliers to Bocas del Toro.

District Attorneys Emilio de Leon and Luis Esquivel, who are in charge of the aforementioned investigations, have been accused of fabricating the cases and of having pressured the alleged witnesses into providing evidence.

On 16 April lawyer Jaime Jovane filed a charge at the Attorney General's Office against District Attorney Emilio de Leon, whom Jovane accused of harassing witnesses Denis Rojas, Amilcar Martinez, and Javier Brathwaite into providing evidence against several persons mentioned in the counternarcotics indictment.

Herrera To Remain in Custody Following Release Order Appeal

PA1804015893 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera will remain in custody at El Renacer Penitentiary because the release order issued by the Seventh Criminal Court was appealed. The Public Affairs Department at the Attorney General's Office issued a communique to address the matter.

[Maria Victoria Gonzalez, Attorney General's Office official] "The report issued on 15 April was in reference to the 15 March 1993 indictment against Mr. Eduardo Herrera and several others on charges of violating several articles of Chapter 2, Title 9, of the Penal Code; that is, crimes against the state. It also described the decision to exchange his preventive custody for conditional release, which means he would be obliged to report to the bench, the Seventh Circuit Court, within the first five days of each month and not leave the country without judicial authorization. That does not imply that the order was executed, because the Attorney General's Office and several defense lawyers for those charged filed an appeal against the writ, including the indictment and custody measures. The Seventh Circuit Court has not issued the release order for Mr. Herrera pending the appeal. The Second District Court will now rule on the legal actions of the Seventh Circuit Court judge. That is the text of the communique."

Herrera's wife, Xenia, expressed her concerns about her husband remaining in prison.

[Xenia Herrera] "We were expecting something to happen; for example, the amnesty law, although it was said it would not pass. I have faith in God that something will happen. My husband must receive justice. What they are doing to this man is outrageous."

Government Minister Juan Chevalier reacted strongly upon learning of Seventh Circuit Judge Nixia Chung de Gonzalez' ruling in the Herrera Case.

[Chevalier] "There is a judge in this case—you must forgive me now—who is a Noriega supporter. Evidently she has ordered Herrera's release, but that does not matter: first, because the decision was appealed; and second, because there are several cases against him. Do not to worry. He is fine in Renacer Penitentiary, and he will be there a while longer."

At the Seventh Circuit Court, Judge Nixia Chung de Gonzalez preferred not to make any statements to the media. Hector Zavala, Col. Eduardo Herrera's defense attorney, said there is a plot to keep Col. Herrera in jail.

[Zavala] "The Executive Branch is exerting heavy pressure on the judicial branch to prevent Col. Herrera's legal release. Let me tell you this: From now on we want a fair trial. We demand that the Executive Branch and the Attorney General's Office immediately begin court proceedings, because we are ready for trial right now. I have information that the Attorney General's Office has ordered all its district attorneys to appeal and file stalling actions to prevent the hearings and keep Col. Herrera in custody until after the 1994 election. That is the order they have been given."

Court Rules Ex-Colonel Can Be Placed Under House Arrest

PA1804025093 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Apr 93 pp 48, 31

[Report by Florencio Galvez]

[Text] Based on doctors' advice, the Second District Court overturned a lower court ruling rejecting a request to allow Former Colonel Guillermo Jose Wong Guizado to go from preventive to house arrest.

The Second Circuit Court in Panama Province had denied the request in consideration of charges filed against Wong Guizado by citizen Raul Garcia.

The higher court's ruling was based on the fact that former Col. Wong Guizado suffers from a heart condition. Wong Guizado's condition was confirmed by his doctor and the Forensic Medicine Institute.

The Second District Court ruled that there are legal grounds to change Wong's status from preventive to house arrest. According to the medical report, he cannot remain hospitalized because it does not contribute to his recovery and would endanger his life.

The legal measure does not nullify the charges filed against him, and he still must stand trial.

Despite the Second District Court's ruling, former Col. Wong remained at a local hospital. He faces other charges filed against him in various courts.

It was also learned that the Second District Court provisionally dismissed charges filed by citizen Pio Magana Valencia against two former officers of the dismantled Defense Forces.

The resolution benefits former officers Nivaldo Madrinan Aponte and Theodoro Alexander Hansell and confirms the 10th Circuit Court's dismissal of charges. The measure was appealed by the Eighth District attorney.

The case is based on charges filed by citizen Magana against former Col. Alexander and other military officers for misappropriation of funds and for torturing Magana and depriving him of his freedom. According to the resolution, there was not enough evidence to confirm the charges as Magana was arrested on charges that he had stolen a large sum of money, as stated in an official bulletin issued by the judicial branch.

Regarding the charges of torture, the resolution states that based on Magana's statement, he received special treatment, was not beaten, and his relatives were allowed to visit him.

As for Magana's charges that other officers had illegally used his checks, experts determined that Magana himself had signed the checks that the comptroller general reported were cashed. The uncashed checks were at the administrative offices of the now defunct Defense Forces.

Argentina

Japanese Fishing Boat Seized Near Falklands

PY1904154293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1121 GMT 19 Apr 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (NA)—The Navy officially reported that a Japanese fishing ship that was operating illegally in Argentina's exclusive economic zone near the Malvinas Islands was captured by the corvette Drummond after it tried to escape to waters controlled by British authorities.

The ship, which was manned by Japanese, Filipinos, and Brazilian sailors, was boarded by personnel from the Boarding and Inspection military unit, and later escorted by the corvette to Puerto Deseado in Santa Cruz Province, where it will arrive today.

According to a Navy communique, the incident occurred yesterday morning when the corvette Drummond while on a patrol mission detected Yuryo Maru fishing boat No. 58, which was fishing "three miles within the exclusive economic zone, west of the area the British call the Interim Zone for Fishing Management and Preservation (ZIACP). [no end quotation marks as received]

As soon as it was detected, the Japanese ship attempted to escape "toward the southeast, entering the ZIACP," for which reason the corvette Drummond started a "steady pursuit, ordering the fishing boat to stop its motor."

After a one-hour chase, and after Drummond officials threatened "to use weapons," the fishing boat stopped and was boarded by the Boarding and Inspection unit, which—according to the Navy—"confirmed the violation of Argentine fishing laws."

The Navy communique added that "the Southern Naval Area informed British naval authorities in the Malvinas islands of the incident, in keeping with what was agreed upon by the two countries."

While the Boarding and Inspection unit's personnel were on the Japanese ship, the Falkland Desire—which is a British fishing patrol boat—was waiting "in the vicinity."

According to the communique, after the violation of the law was confirmed, the Drummond escorted the Japanese ship to Puerto Deseado for the purpose of "handing the ship over to the appropriate authorities to take the pertinent legal action."

Navy authorities expect the two ships to arrive in Puerto Deseado this morning.

The fishing boat, which was chartered by a Brazilian company and had a 21-man crew—15 Japanese, three Filipinos, and three Brazilians—was fishing for squid and had received authorization from British authorities to fish within the ZIACP.

SIDE Agent Dispatched To Rome To Cover Court Proceedings

PY1704221593 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 11 Apr 93 p 2

[Article by Roman Lejtman]

[Excerpt] A special agent from the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE) has left for Rome to find out whether the Italian court has evidence against members or former members of the Menem government. He has just received instructions from Buenos Aires to concentrate on the imminent testimony by Italian Ambassador to Argentina Claudio Moreno, who on Tuesday will again testify before Justice Vittorio Paraggio. The special agent is the son-in-law of SIDE chief Hugo Anzorreguy. At first his only objective had been a vacation in Europe, but the acceleration of the judicial process has changed the purpose of his trip, and he must now dedicate himself to espionage.

The special agent's investigations are based on a secret report Anzorreguy received from General Cesare Pucci, chief of the Italian Foreign Service. The mission entrusted to the special agent involves obtaining first-hand information, avoiding contacts with the Argentine Embassy in Italy, and anticipating any judicial decision that could cause a new political scandal.

President Carlos Menem ordered SIDE to look for direct information, complaining that his only source of information was the newspapers. The level of concern at Casa Rosada [Government Palace] increased when it received indications that Presidency Secretary General Eduardo Bauza was not the only Argentine politician being investigated by the Roman courts. The arrest of Claudio Moreno last week has doubled the intelligence work for the tourist turned spy, but so far he has very little to contribute: He learned through the newspapers that the Italian ambassador had been arrested, and the only information he can provide is that which has been published by the newspapers.

SIDE's main objective is to ascertain what information Paraggio has, and at what he is aiming his sights. Unlike Narcogate, when then Ambassador to Spain Jose Figuerola had access to Judge Baltasar Garzon, this time there are very few chances that Ambassador Keller Sarmiento might obtain a general overview from Paraggio. The Roman judge is very reluctant to talk to strangers, and much less so to diplomats from a country which is under investigation. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Leaves Hospital, Returns to Work

PY1904205493 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1653 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (TELAM)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion has stated that rumors that his cardiac problems were prompted by a disagreement with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo during a cabinet meeting on 15 April are "totally groundless."

Camilion returned to his office shortly before 1000 today after being treated at a local hospital on 16 April for what the report described as "transitory tachycardia and a case of gout." [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Independent Polls Show MNR Leading for Jun Elections

PY1704142693 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] According to independent polls, the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] is the favorite party in the upcoming elections. MNR campaign spokesman Hermann Antelo said these polls demonstrate a broad advantage for the MNR for the upcoming June 6 elections.

Antelo said that organizations like the Oruro Planning Center, Copla [Centro Orureno de Planificacion], reports that the MNR is running ahead with 27 percent of the public's preference in comparison with 12 percent for the UCS [Solidarity Civic Union].

The newspaper LA GAZETA DEL SUR of Potosi reports that 33 percent of the public prefers the MNR, which is followed by the Patriotic Agreement, with 18 percent of the public's preference.

The Chuquisaca Development Studies Center, Cedech [Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Chuquisaqueno], of Sucre reports that the MNR is also ahead in the polls with 32.2 percent of the preferences, followed by the MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] with 12.2 percent.

Finally, Antelo mentioned a poll carried out by the Bolivian Catholic University in La Paz which shows that the MNR has a broad advantage over the other parties with 29.6 percent of the public's preference, followed by Condepa [Conscience of the Fatherland], which has 17.6 percent of support.

Supreme Court Sentences Former Dictator Garcia Meza

PY1604154593 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Report by Gaston Nunez from Sucre]

[Text] The plenum of the Supreme Court of Justice yesterday approved the final sentence against former dictator Luis Garcia Meza and his collaborators, who are charged with malfeasance in office. It also denounced a new dilatory strategy by Peter Pardo, defense attorney of Luis Arce Gomez.

At 1725 yesterday, Pardo asked Supreme Court President Pablo Oblitas and Justices Ernesto Poppe Zubieta, Luis Adlfo Siles, Oscar Hassenteufel, Carlos Azad, Edgar Rosales Lijeron, and Guillermo Arancibia to disqualify themselves from hearing the case. Pardo claimed that these members have pre-conceived opinions before the sentence. Despite this, the plenum in a permanent session approved the sentence that will be read during a public audience at 1500 on 21 April.

Unofficial sources reported that former constitutional President Lidia Gueiler Tejada and the former ministers of her cabinet will attend the session in which the sentence against Garcia Meza and his collaborators will be read. The sources noted that Gueiler will thus repudiate the bloody coup d'etat perpetrated by Garcia Meza, who is at large.

Brazil

Franco Dissolves Corrupt Social Security Medical Institute

PY2004034693 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Today President Itamar Franco decided to dismantle the INAMPS [National Institute for Social Security Medical Assistance]. A survey conducted by the Health Ministry determined that INAMPS is irrecoverable. The survey revealed that 40 percent of the resources earmarked for payment of hospital services are diverted.

In a few days' time President Franco will sign a decree transferring INAMPS services and resources to state and municipal administrations, and will submit to Congress a draft bill dismantling INAMPS.

One of the immediate measures will be to dismiss approximately 600 employees holding key posts. This decision was made after several surveys revealed the existence of thousands of cases of fraud throughout all INAMPS sectors.

In the opinion of (Carlos Mosconi), INAMPS president, the only way to solve the problem is to dismantle it. (Mosconi) asserted that fraud affected approximately 40 percent of the funds earmarked for the payment of hospital services, which in March amounted to 4 trillion cruzeiros. [passage omitted]

Once INAMPS is dismantled, its resources will be directly transferred to state and municipal administrations, thus strengthening the Unified Health System. The state and municipal health secretariats will become directly responsible for the registration, supervision, and payment of contracted hospitals and physicians. The approximately 100,000 INAMPS employees will work at

the state or municipal health services, or will be transferred to organizations such as the INSS [National Social Security Institute] or the Federal Revenue Office.

Moreover, the Health Ministry will promote the creation of municipal and state health councils that will monitor the use of public funds.

'Everything Ready' for Plebiscite; Results Expected 3 May

PY2004033393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Today is the last day for electoral propaganda for the plebiscite.

Tomorrow Paulo Brossard, president of the Superior Electoral Court, will address the nation over a radio and television hookup about the plebiscite.

Brossard said he will no longer warn the various fronts participating in the plebiscite about inappropriate use of free television time for electoral campaign purposes, as it would be pointless.

Brossard also said that everything is ready for the plebiscite:

[Begin recording] So far I have no complaints or reasons to be annoyed. Everything is running smoothly. The ballot slips, for example, were printed a month before the plebiscite, and have been distributed throughout the country. I think the Electoral Court has done an excellent job. [end recording]

Paulo Brossard said that the official results of the plebiscite would be disclosed on 3 May, but that because it is a simple vote, the vote count might be ready before then.

Exit Poll Results Expected When Polling Stations Close

PY2004160993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2126 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Brasilia, 19 Apr (EFE)—A Superior Electoral Court (STE) spokesman told EFE today that the 90.2 million Brazilians called to cast their votes in the 21 April plebiscite will be able to vote at stations other than the ones they are registered at.

The 90,214,780 potential voters registered at the Electoral Registry must vote at the 255,000 voting stations throughout the country between 0800 local time (1100 GMT) and 1700 local time (2000 GMT).

Because voting is compulsory in Brazil, voters who are not in their electoral district can mail a letter justifying their absence or they can vote wherever they are on the day of the plebiscite.

Voting is compulsory for Brazilian citizens between ages 18 and 70, and those who violate the law may lose their jobs if they are public servants, be fined, deprived of government lines of credit, or not be able to obtain passports to travel abroad.

Electoral court officials believe that due to the people's lack of interest in the plebiscite on the system of government, the absenteeism rate may well surpass 10 percent, the average for past elections in which posts were at stake.

The independent organization IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute] will conduct an exit poll, the results of which will be released immediately after the polling stations close.

All previous surveys show that the presidential system of government has a lead of at least 40 percent over the two other options: monarchy and the parliamentary system.

The STE plans to release general results on 25 April but final results will not be available earlier than 3 May.

Polls Shows 'Victory' of Republican, Presidential System

PY1904194793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Apr 93 Special Plebiscite Supplement p 1

[Excerpt] Just three days before the plebiscite to choose the government system, a poll conducted nationwide by the Gallup Institute shows the victory of the republican style and presidential system of government. The Gallup Institute conducted a poll between 13 and 16 April among 2,000 voters from 130 cities in 23 states. The poll discovered that 60 percent of voters favor the republican style of government and that 12 percent support the monarchy. About 52 percent will vote for the presidential system, and 24 percent will vote for the parliamentary system. A high index of absenteeism is expected on 21 April. The Gallup Institute states that null or blank votes are expected to total 28 percent, almost double that registered during past elections.

Gallup Institute Executive Director Carlos Matheus has said that the likely continuation of the current government system shows that efforts to present alternative systems of government have failed. [passage omitted]

New Chief of Armed Forces Joint Staff Installed

PY1604222493 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Squadron Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira was today installed as new chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff at Planalto Palace. He replaces Army General Antonio da Rocha Veneu, who after many years of service in the Armed Forces will be retiring.

Bank of Brazil Agrees To Back Helicopter Purchase

PY1904220393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Apr 93 p 12

[Report by Rossana Alves from Brasilia]

[Text] On 14 April, following six months of hard bargaining, the Brazilian Navy Ministry and the Bank of Brazil signed a protocol for the purchase of eight, and the refurbishment of six, Super Lynx helicopters that are manufactured by the British company Westland. The operation will cost the country $200 million. The Bank of Brazil, which will provide the financial backing, was unwilling to back the operation for fear that the National Treasury would not honor its obligations with the British company. It gave in, however, to pressure from Government House which supports Navy Minister Ivan Serpa and wants the deal pushed through.

Bank of Brazil sources have said that its experts advised against getting involved in the deal. They claimed that the operation would pose serious risks for the bank because if the government failed to make the payments over the next six years, the bank would have to make them.

A high-ranking bank official who participated in the negotiations has stated: "The Bank of Brazil is the main foreign creditor of the Brazilian Government and it does not want to run any more risks."

Minister Ivan Serpa assured O GLOBO that the Navy would not default on the obligations contracted with this deal. "This is a zero-risk operation," he said.

Bank of Brazil Chairman Alcir Caliari, confirmed that the negotiations were difficult because the bank sought to protect itself from all risks in an operation that involves so much money. Caliari denied, however, having been pressured by Government House to make the deal go through. "There was never any pressure," he told O GLOBO.

Angra-1 Nuclear Plant To Be Shut Down 'Indefinitely'

PY2004000393 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] The Angra-1 Nuclear Plant will be shut down indefinitely until any possibility of a reactor leak is ruled out.

Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero last Friday ordered the Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc.] to examine the containment vessel of the Angra-1 nuclear reactor, in Rio de Janeiro.

This past weekend Cicero stated in Belo Horizonte that the nuclear plant will be reactivated only if absolute safety can be guaranteed.

Cicero stated that nuclear experts and defenders of the environment have expressed to his ministry their concern over the possibility of a nuclear leak at Angra-1.

What concerns these people most of all, Cicero said, is that the structure of Angra-1 is similar to the nuclear plants that suffered the most recent nuclear accidents in the world.

Cicero said that the government must make available the resources to verify the nuclear plant's real situation.

Ministers Disagree on Privatization Program

PY1604183393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Apr 93 p 22

[Article by Leise Taveira and Sergio Leo]

[Text] Brasilia—The government privatization program has become a subject of discord among Finance Minister Eliseu Resende, Planning Minister Yeda Crusius, and Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero. Statements by Resende in lectures and confidential conversations about extending the privatization program and the possible sale of Vale do Rio Doce subsidiaries are already causing contradictions among his cabinet colleagues who, according to Resende's own advisers, are jealous of the minister's habit of discussing the issue directly with the president of the Republic.

"Any information about changes in the privatization process must be approved by the Planning Ministry and the Privatization Committee, which is responsible for the privatization process," Yeda Crusius said yesterday in response to a question about an alleged report that there would be changes in the privatization program.

When asked if the Finance Ministry had studied the issue, she said: "I can answer on behalf of the Planning Ministry, but not on behalf of the Finance Ministry." She added that when she was installed in her post she insisted on discussing the privatization issue with society.

Minister Paulino Cicero said that the idea of selling Vale do Rio Doce subsidiaries is an isolated initiative by the Finance Ministry. Finance Ministry aides defend the idea of selling Vale do Rio Doce subsidiaries as a necessary measure to demonstrate the government's interest in extending the privatization program. Minister Paulino Cicero has some restrictions on this initiative: "Vale do Rio Doce is practically private and only holds a small share in many of its subsidiaries."

Privatization Plan Designed To Reduce Public Deficit

PY1704001093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Apr 93 Economy Section p 8

[Text] Brasilia—Finance Minister Eliseu Resende is looking into the possibility of transforming this year's deficit in the Compensation Fund for Salary Variations

(FCVS), which amounts to $2.5 billion and was used to cover debts on housing loans, into securities that may be used for the National Privatization Program (PND).

The idea of creating a new currency for the purchase of public enterprises is part of a strategy designed to transform the privatization program into the key tool of the economic stabilization measures. Within this context the settlement of the public sector's debt is important, because it eliminates other sources of pressure on public expenditures.

According to an expert, the government is directly favoring its public deficit by reducing or practically eliminating its debts, selling off as many public enterprises as possible. The expert asserted that the government's objective is to balance the Treasury's accounts and eliminate the operational public deficit, taking into account the effect that interest rates have on the government's expenditures.

However, the possibility of turning the public sector's debt into securities will be restricted to debts not contracted with private individuals. That is, debts with citizens, such as the compulsory loan on the purchase of vehicles and fuel, and the Severance Pay Fund (FGTS) account that does not earn interest, would not be eligible.

Wando Borges, executive secretary of the Finance Ministry, yesterday confirmed that in the new privatization program the government will include the auction of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.], Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc.], and Vale do Rio Doce Company shares. O ESTADO had previously announced that "whatever does not affect the government's control over these enterprises will be auctioned."

Borges explained that the sale of Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc.] shares is subject to the amendment of the Eletrobras contract, as it owns 100 percent of the stocks. The same goes for the Angras nuclear plant that belongs to Furnas.

According to Borges, the new privatization package also provides for the sale of all state minority participation in private enterprises.

Planning Minister Yeda Crusius yesterday said that the government is not thinking about including Telebras, Furnas and other enterprises in the privatization program. She said: "I deny that the government is studying this possibility." "The economic team is not thinking about including these enterprises in the program."

Yeda does not agree with Minister Resende, who this year intends to sell the largest possible number of public enterprises, including part of Petrobras' and Telebras' capital.

Mines Minister Denies 'Radical' Privatization Plan Prepared

PY1904161193 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero denied that the government reportedly is preparing a radical privatization program to obtain resources and redeem short-term bonds.

The minister added that Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc. [FCE] and the Rio Doce Valley Company [CVRD] are not on the privatization program's list. However, he said he favors the inclusion of those two companies in the program.

According to the minister, both the FCE and the CVRD could be privatized through the sale of shares on the stock exchange rather than by auctioning them.

Agriculture Minister on 1993 Harvest, Credit Changes

PY1704152093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Brazil will harvest about 80 million metric tons of grain—10 million metric tons more than the current harvest—during the 1993 harvest. This projection was made by Agriculture Minister Lazaro Barbosa. In his opinion, this production increase will be the result of changes in rural credits, changes that are being promoted by the government.

[Begin journalist Estenio Ribeiro recording] In addition to the guaranteed marketing funds, which were released earlier this year, the minister said a $200 million credit line will be established for farmers to improve the soil and increase their productivity.

Lazaro Barbosa added that the National Agricultural Policy Council is studying the possibility of implementing commodity [preceding word in English] securities, allowing guarantees for farmers to market their products at the grain and commodity stock exchanges in Brazil and abroad, a measure that is also being assessed already by Economy Minister Eliseu Resende.

The agriculture minister also disclosed that the Itamar Franco government is determined to have farmers use their products as a currency, instead of the monetary corrections and interest rates currently governing agricultural financing.

According to Lazaro Barbosa, the reason for the announced changes is the recognition that our country depends on agriculture and that our country will overcome recession through agriculture. [end recording]

Chile

General Pinochet Leaves for PRC on Official Visit

PY1604145693 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet left today for the PRC on a regular flight of a commercial airline. The director of logistics and Army Ordnance also travelled with Pinochet.

Gen. Pinochet will make an official seven-day visit, having been invited by the Chinese Army, but he will be out of the country 15 days, therefore he may visit other countries of this region.

This information was provided by Army Communications Director Colonel Jose Garcia Ferliche who said the Army delegation will hold protocol meetings with the Chinese high military command, and will make professional visits to Chinese Army installations, and military industries.

[Begin Garcia recording] The purpose of the trip is to learn about their Army materiel and exchange ideas for the mutual benefit of the two armies. The main aspects of the issues to be discussed by the Chilean delegation are related to professional training, technology, and joint research that would allow initiatives in the areas of weapon systems, instruction, training, exchange of experience in mountain and cold weather operations, military industries of the two countries, and scientific, and technological development. [end recording]

Gen. Pinochet was bade farewell at the Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport by Army Deputy Chief General Jorge Lucar Figueroa and other high military officials including the Chinese defense attache in our country. Pinochet's wife Lucia Iriart and his son are not travelling with him as previously reported.

Col. Garcia also said that there is no secret about Pinochet's trip. He discarded the possibility that Pinochet and the delegation he heads will study the purchase of weapons made by Chinese military industries.

Poll Shows PDC's Frei Leading in Presidential Campaign

PY1704152793 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Excerpt] A poll carried out by the Center for Contemporary Reality Studies, CERC, has confirmed that Eduardo Frei, candidate for the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has the first place in the voters' preferences for the upcoming general elections.

The poll was carried out last March and it represents 63 percent of the national population. To the question, whom would you vote for if the presidential elections were held next Sunday, the PDC candidate was preferred by 46 percent of the voters, followed by the Socialist PPD [Party for Democracy] candidate Ricardo Lagos, with 20.6 percent.

Way behind came Francisco Javier Errazuriz with 6.9 percent; independent Jose Pinera, with 3.8 percent; Manuel Feliu from National Renewal with 3.7 percent; Jovino Novoa from the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] with 3.3 percent; and MIDA [Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement] candidate Eugenio Pizarro with 1.5 percent. [passage omitted]

Independent Movement Registers as New Political Party

PY1704011593 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p 8

[Excerpt] The Independent Progressive Movement [Movimiento Progresista Independiente] (MPI), which claims to represent the "people's nationalism," this past weekend registered as a new political party.

Its current secretary general, Juan Carlos Moraga, has stated that the MPI intends to present candidates for congressmen in the three regions where it is registered—that is, in the 5th, the 6th, and the 7th Regions—but that it will seek an alliance with similar forces. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Escobar Family Security Chief Surrenders

PA1904231693 Paris AFP in Spanish 2147 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 19 Apr (AFP)—Medellin's regional attorney general's office announced that another surrender took place in Medellin on 18 April when one more sidekick to fugitive Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar turned himself in. He is Eileen Antonio Acevedo Calle, alias "La Chepa."

Acevedo Calle, 23, is accused by the authorities of being a member of the armed wing of the Medellin cocaine cartel. Lately, he was in charge of Escobar's family security following the arrest in the United States of former police officer Pedro Chunza, who after holding the post, deserted and left the country.

"La Chepa" had carried out a spectacular escape in 1988, when together with Dan Dennys Munoz Mosquera, alias "La Quica"—another well-known paid assassin serving Escobar—both were picked-up by helicopter from the Bellavista jail in Bello Municipality.

The surrender of this new Escobar gang member was a surprise, taking into account that on 15 April a brutal car bomb attack took place in Santa Fe de Bogota, which killed 11 people and injured 218, and is blamed on

Escobar. The attack implied that no Escobar men would surrender in the near future.

A Medellin attorney general's office delegate took Acevedo Calle's initial statement. Acevedo Calle will probably be jailed in the high security prison in Itagui Municipality, in northeast Anitoquia Department, where 19 of Escobar's followers are being held.

Police Inspect Itagui High Security Prison

PA2004015193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0006 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The police implemented an unannounced inspection at the Itagui high security prison after the prosecutor general mentioned that there were many irregularities there. Another Escobar henchman surrendered on 19 April. Following is Juan Ortiz' report:

[Begin Ortiz recording] An interdisciplinary group—including Police, Army, Attorney General's Office, Prosecutor General's Office, Penitentiary Directorate, and Navy personnel—carried out a special operation at the Itagui high security prison from 0600 to 1115 on 19 April. The action, which was the fourth of its kind, was set up to find any irregularities at the prison. The action was arranged at a Security Council meeting, attended by Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda. It was held at the (Carlos Holguin) Police Academy on 18 April. The group seized a Honda motorcycle, a mobile telephone, and two empty desks.

Eileen Acevedo Calle, alias La Chepa, surrendered on 19 April. He had carried out a spectacular helicopter escape from Bellavista prison in 1988 and is being investigated for dynamite attacks in Santa Fe de Bogota and other cities. [end recording]

Cuban Authorities Arrest SEMANA Journalist

PA1804201493 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0406 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] One of the top stories is the arrest of Mauricio Saenz Barrera, SEMANA magazine reporter. According to a Radio Cadena Nacional interview with one of the passengers who arrived this morning from Cuba, Saenz was aboard the airplane and a few minutes before take-off he was forced to descend from the plane by Cuban authorities. Saenz is currently under arrest in Havana.

Mauricio Saenz Barrera, who is in charge of the International Section of the SEMANA magazine, was conducting an investigation in Santiago. He was arrested under strange circumstances. We now have information from journalist Ciro Gonzalez Martinez, who recently arrived in Tulua municipality from Havana.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Gonzalez Martinez, can you tell us what happened?

[Gonzalez] We had been invited to Cuba by the Cuban Government, through the Tourism Ministry, to visit Havana, Santiago, and Varadero under this new tourism opening of the Cuban Government. We had concluded our mission, we were very well attended, everything went very well. We were already aboard the plane to return to Colombia, at approximately 2130 [0130 GMT]. We were already seated, our safety belts on, when the airplane's doors opened again and two military officers came aboard looking for someone.

They stopped at the seat of a person—whom I did not yet recognize—and told him to get up. The man was taken from the airplane and we started asking what was happening. No one answered us; no one said anything. They did not answer, they were only carrying out orders. He was taken from the plane and led inside the airport.

Later, two other officers came in through the back of the plane. They again searched the area where the man had been sitting until they checked the overhead baggage compartment and removed an 8-mm video recorder and took it away.

By this time, all the passengers on the plane started asking around and even went to the front of the plane, but none of us received an answer. We were simply told that we were returning to our country. We sat back down and returned to Colombia. We arrived here at approximately 0100 on 17 April and are worried because we have still not heard anything about what has happened to the man who is a SEMANA magazine reporter. We do not know what will happen, or what happened, and what caused him to be detained.

[Reporter] What attitude did Mauricio Saenz Barrera of the SEMANA magazine adopt in light of his arrest by the Havana authorities?

[Gonzalez] He was surprised. We were all very happy because we had been well received by the tourism authorities and were all very happy. We had been acting as travel agents. I own a travel agency and was invited by them as a travel agent and not as a journalist.

However, it seems that Mr. Saenz was indeed on a journalistic mission and that is why he was arrested because the rest of the 130 invited passengers, most of us travel agents, all returned very happy, as was he, amid a farewell ceremony, with music and drinks. This simply caught us all by surprise because we were very thankful and pleased with the Cuban authorities' attentiveness.

[Reporter] Did the authorities finally let the plane leave without that passenger and without saying anything else?

[Gonzalez] They said absolutely nothing else. We were insisting on an explanation: What is happening? Why him? What will happen to him? Give us some explanation. But no one told us anything, and even the pilot of the airplane, who is the commander of that Colombian territory at that time, was not told anything.

The officials, a group of four men, took the Colombian national from the plane. They took him from the airplane platform back into the airport about 50 yards away. They did not speak—nobody talks there—they only carry out orders of detaining the person.

We know that, since he was a journalist, his arrest probably has something to do with his work as a reporter.

[Reporter] How did you know he was a reporter?

[Gonzalez] Within the group of travel agents there were some journalists, and while we were together we identified ourselves. Then we learned the person who had been taken away was Mauricio, who works for the SEMANA magazine, where he writes a column.

When we went to Havana, Santiago, and Varadero, he went separately from the group for a couple of days to carry out his journalist activities. We carried out our tourist work and he carried out his journalist work.

[Reporter] Thank you Mr. Gonzalez, you have been very kind. [End recording]

Authorities Release Magazine Editor

PA1804202793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Mauricio Saenz, editor of SEMANA magazine, was released on 18 April in Havana, Cuba. Saenz was arrested by several Cuban security agents while he was aboard a plane preparing to fly to Colombia after making several reports on the current situation on the island.

The journalist traveled to Cuba, at the invitation of PRENSA LATINA. Cuban agents explained to him that he was arrested because the Cuban regime did not agree with the contents of his reportages.

Journalist Comments on Drug Charges

PA1904204393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] In addition to the serious problems he has in Cuba, Fidel Castro must also cope with the specter of drug trafficking. That was made clear with the arrest over the weekend of 17 to 18 April of Colombian newsman Mauricio Saenz. He and a group of Colombian reporters had traveled to that country as tourists. Five days later and ready to take the flight back, men in uniform forced him to get off the airplane. Why? He was suspected of drug trafficking.

[Begin Saenz recording] I am told the authorities found a document among my personal belongings, which led them to believe I could be involved in a conspiracy to smuggle drugs into Cuba. I was later taken to the city of Matanzas, and there I was shown the document, which turns out to be a napkin on which a Cuban colleague had scribbled some things, including the word drugs. [end recording]

According to the authorities, drug trafficking has become a serious problem. This is all the more true now that a U.S. court has accused Raul Castro, Fidel's brother, of being a drug trafficker.

Police Foil Jailbreak Attempted by ELN Rebels

PA1604173693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Guerrillas from the Army of National Liberation [ELN], who were attempting to escape from jail in Santander, have been captured by the authorities, who also seized their weapons and ammunition. The confrontation took place in Berlin Prison, located between El Socorro and San Gil Municipalities.

The ELN rebels were planning to participate in the massive escape of 12 inmates from the prison at El Socorro. To carry out their plans, they had delivered to the prison two weapons hidden in this piece of lumber, which the prison guards discovered.

[Begin recording, unidentified prison guard] A letter, which was turned over to the guards, was included in the lumber. This letter advised an inmate that the lumber was being sent to him so he could make chairs, and that they would pay for the job in 15 days. [end recording]

This alerted the Socorro and Zapatoca Police Stations, which sent men to check out this clue. The rebels—who were carrying weapons, ammunition, and two shirts with the emblem of the guerrilla front—were captured in a rural area between the two municipalities. It was also learned that a few months ago the rebels had rented a house on the road leading to El Palmar, just 5 km from the prison.

Henry Guevara, one of the prisoners, is charged with having murdered a wealthy cattle rancher in the area and of having kidnapped the cattle rancher's wife on 4 November 1992. The brother of this prisoner was the man who commanded the group that was captured. He escaped.

The 11 inmates who were planning to escape were taken to the prison in Bucaramanga.

* ANDI Fears Trade Liberalization With Mexico

93SM0209A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Mar 93 p 12A

[Text] Industrialists warned the government that they are not in a position to withstand the results of a speeded-up liberalization of trade with Mexico, and that the joint customs tariff on external trade agreed upon within the Andean Group can turn into a disadvantage in negotiations with Mexico.

ANDI [National Association of Industrialists] President Carlos Arturo Angel expressed concern with respect to the inequitable position domestic production may be left in starting 1 January 1994, when the TLC [Free Trade Agreement] that Mexico has signed with the United States goes into operation.

A study made by the association indicates that, as a result of the TLC, 22 percent of the principal raw materials imported by Colombia will be able to enter Mexico free of customs duty beginning next year.

Angel points out that from this standpoint the Andean tariffs agreement, which imposes a five-percent tariff on goods that are not produced in the subregion, and includes the majority of raw materials, presents limitations and disadvantages, since the materials brought in for Colombian industry would comparatively be more expensive.

Minister of Foreign Trade Juan Manuel Santos, however reassured the industrialists, asserting that Colombia and Venezuela are in a position to "pierce" this tariff.

In this regard, it has been learned that Colombia will ask that import tariffs on some materials where Mexico will have the advantage, and which, furthermore, are not produced by the Andean group, such as agricultural chemicals, be reduced to zero.

The request will be made as part of the negotiations now pending at the Andean level to set import tariffs with respect to third countries on the tariff structure on which no agreement was reached during the meeting that established joint tariffs for 95 percent of the products.

Upon analyzing Mexico's proposal for abatement, ANDI found that it was "inexpedient," since it would narrow Colombian producers' potential export capabilities to that market.

Only 20 percent, and not exactly the most important, of Colombia's export products would benefit by the liberalization agreement offered by Mexico, said Angel.

In this regard, the head of the Mexican delegation's trade group, Jesus Florez, stated that the proposal is open to discussion, and that "pacts are concluded only when the negotiating is over."

* Fedemetal: Possible Money Laundering Scheme

93SM0209B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Mar 91 p 1B

[Text] The business sector warned yesterday that the importing of metallurgical products may be being used to launder dollars.

The alert was sounded because goods have entered the country at extremely low prices that barely cover the cost of packing.

It was voiced by Fedemetal [Colombian Federation of Metal Industries] President Luis Gustavo Florez, who announced that the group is investigating the matter.

Florez did not specify which products are being undersold, but he said that some enterprises find themselves in a very difficult situation, because these imports represent unfair competition.

The president also expressed his concern with respect to the lack of agreement within the Andean Group on technical and quality standards, and indicated that with the restructuring of Customs, quality control has decreased, and that for this reason it is difficult to detect imports of used products and goods that fail to meet the technical requisites.

Referring to the iron and steel industry, he stated that the restrictions the United States has placed on imports of certain products from the European Community has unleashed a competition affecting Colombia's exports.

According to a Fedemetal survey, the industry posted a production growth of 21.3 percent in volume during the fourth quarter of last year, and a sales growth of 29.8 percent, compared to the same period in 1991.

* Guerrilla Desertions Said Increasing in Uraba

93SM0209C Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p 5C

[Article by Orlando Leon Restrepo]

[Text] Apartado—Two events marked the day, yesterday, in Uraba: The return to their farms of the peasants who had participated in the strike, and the disclosure that over the past two months there has been an increase in desertions by militants of guerrilla groups.

The demonstration began breaking up slowly, following the issuing of the order lifting the strike. The return was not rapid because despite the promises of security measures made by the presidential adviser for Uraba, Jose Noe Rios, and by Antioquia's government, during Noe Rios's visit to Apartado on Tuesday, the workers are still afraid.

The massive desertion of guerrillas and their collaboration with the authorities was also confirmed here yesterday as a fact that is occurring throughout the banana-growing region.

During the past 60 days, 20 guerrillas have turned themselves in to the authorities and voluntarily surrendered to the Judiciary. This report was confirmed by officials of this area's Regional District Attorney's Office, who added that those were persons tied mainly to the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia] and to the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] dissidence.

The officials added that at least 19 additional members of guerrilla groups are presently in the process of surrendering in this agroindustrial region.

The spokespersons said that the members of the revolution who have turned themselves in are actively collaborating with the Judiciary, and based on the information they supplied to the authorities 19 members of the EPL dissidence were captured and small boats and weapons were seized."

The guerrillas are surrendering voluntarily to the Army, especially in the headquarters areas of the Francisco de Paula Velez and Voltigeros battalions, in Carepa.

According to officials of the District Attorney's Office in Uraba, those who surrender to the judiciary authorities recount the motives for their entry and detail their time spent in the guerrilla groups. "Then, they ask to be detained and express their wish to appear before a Colombian court of justice."

The majority of the insurgents who turn themselves in to the Army in Uraba ask that the information they provide be taken into account for purposes of penalty reduction and an expeditious ending of trials.

Upon their surrender to the region's military authorities, the Army renders a report to the Office of the District Attorney and, by official note, places the detainees at the disposal of the judiciary authorities.

For their part, the detainees render preliminary unsworn statements before a Regional District Attorney, and an attorney is appointed for them at the state's expense if they do not have the means to pay for one.

Correction to Ecopetrol Registers Low Production

PA1604165893

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ecopetrol Registers Low Production Due to Terrorism," published in the 16 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 35:

Column one, seventh full paragraph, first sentence make read:...Limon-Covenas and Colombia (Vasconia-Covenas) oil pipelines, operations....(correcting name)

Column one, eight full paragraph, third sentence, make read: ...affected, totalled 250.726 billion pesos. This-....(correcting number)

Column two, second full paragraph, second sentence, make read: ...registered earnings of 165.748 billion pesos in....(correcting number)

Paraguay

Russian Trade Delegation Visits To Develop Ties

PY1604192493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Apr 93 p 14

[Names and titles as published]

[Text] [Sergey Glazyev], the Russian Foreign Economic Relations minister, who for the first time began an official visit to our country on 14 April, stressed that his main objective in Paraguay is to establish a legal and favorable footing upon which to begin to develop economic and trade ties between Russia and Paraguay.

Asked if Russians have any knowledge about Paraguay and whether they are interested in any special product, he said: "At the government level we know what Paraguay can offer us, and we also know what Russian products interest Paraguay. We believe that the basic deals and the contracts regarding trade must be made directly through private enterprises, something that we will support and promote."

He added that the Russian businessmen accompanying him represent two very important business groups that were installed recently in Russia, and that they are here to obtain more information on our country.

During the afternoon of 14 April the Russian delegation held a lengthy meeting with Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone, and the delegation then visited the Foreign Ministry to meet with Paraguayan technicians.

Glazyev said: "Our ministry functions as the generator of business in Russia in that it manages large volumes of information regarding what Russia and countries throughout the world want to export."

Asked whether his ministry could act as a link for continuing this type of mission, he said: "Of course, because for a long period of time our economies were isolated from each other due to the political regimes that existed in the two countries. This is why the two ministries need to implement this first step in our trade relations, and this is why our delegation is so representative."

Valery V. Zhabin, the vice president of one of the largest Russian private corporations, indicated that the Russians are very optimistic over Mercosur [Common Market of the South] considering that the Latin American market is at this time ready to receive a range of products from the former Soviet Union. Zhabin is also a president of a mixed (private and public) business group that functions within Russia's Foreign Economic Relations Ministry.

"We could purchase products from you, preferably agricultural products, in which the Russian market is interested. We could also exchange trade information because there is a great lack of information in this area. The functions of the Paraguayan-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which will act as a link, will be very important," he said.

Mikhail Sinelin, technical administrative secretary of the ministry; Sergey Batchikov, director of Economic and Trade Relations with Latin America; Alexander Agueev, director of the Strategic Planning and Development

Evaluation Office; and Alexander Krestianov, deputy director for Treaties and Legal Affairs are accompanying Minister Glazyev.

Vladimir Pajanov, deputy director for Military Technical Cooperation; Vladimir Bodarenco, an economic expert; and Emma Kalaida, chief of the ministry's Financial department are also part of the Russian delegation.

Signs Economic Cooperation Agreement

PY1904225893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] An unprecented event took place yesterday in the Foreign Ministry with the signing of the first agreement between Paraguay and the Russian Federation on trade and economic cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken and Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Sergey Glazyev.

The five-page agreement states that the two contracting parties will, in accordance with the regulations and legislation of the two countries, adopt all the necessary measures to promote and ensure the economic-commercial relations between the two countries.

The agreement also specifies that the two parties will grant each other most favored country status in all aspects of trade and economic cooperation.

The agreement also says that the two parties agree that the most favored country status will not be applied in the following circumstances:

a) the advantages and franchises granted for the participation of the two contracting parties in customs house exception agreements, a free trade zone, or any other form of regional or subregional integration.

b) the advantages and franchises granted or to be granted in the future by one of the contracting parties to bordering countries to facilitate border trade.

c) the advantages and franchises that one of the contracting parties granted or could grant to developing countries on the basis of international agreements.

d) the advantages or franchises that the Russian Federation granted or could grant to the CIS or other states that were members of the former USSR.

One of the articles emphasizes that the contracting parties will promote the development of bilateral economic cooperation which will include particularly, but not exclusively, the following: "The participation in the construction, modernization, and reconstruction of companies in the two countries; the supply of equipment, transfer of technology, and preparation of technical documents; industrial cooperation; the creation in the territory of each country of shared risk ventures for the production and commercialization of goods; the exchange of licenses, technology, and other products of creative activity; and the provision of technical services through exchange or training of specialists."

The agreement also does not limit the right of each party to adopt measures prohibiting or restricting imports and exports, if such measures would under the same circumstances be taken regarding any third country, and are aimed at: 1) protecting national security; 2) protecting human life and health and preventing illnesses in animals and plants; and 3) protecting artistic, historical, and archaeological national values.

Enrique Meyer, president of the Guarani Coffee Company of San Bernardino, reported that his company is exporting domestically produced coffee to the Russian market.

"We began exporting into that market in October 1992, and the exports are gradually increasing," said Meyer, who added that in six months of exports the company has already sold coffee worth $3 million.

Meyer concluded by saying that large exports are still difficult because the Russians have many limitations in their commercial, financial, and banking organizations. "In general, the contacts are always made in western Europe," he concluded.

Visting Argentine Army Chief Balza Interviewed

PY1904205293 Asur ion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 10

[Interview with Lieutenant General Martin Balza, Argentine Army chief of staff, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [ABC COLOR] What is the status of the streamlining that is under way in the Argentine Army?

[Balza] At the end of 1990, the Argentine Government issued certain instructions for the implementation of short-, medium-, and long-term goals to be attained by Argentine ground military forces, that is, the Argentine Army. In order to carry out these instructions we evaluated our assets and the status of these assets. This evaluation took into account the organizational, doctrinarian, and operational experience acquired during the Malvinas war. On the basis of this evaluation we designed a long-term ground military instrument that we called 2010, for which we also designed medium- and short-term goals. We had an oversized Army, which we had to change.

[ABC COLOR] Have you cut military personnel?

[Balza] Personnel have been cut, and by 1995 we will have cut personnel by 20 percent as compared to what we had in 1989.

[ABC COLOR] Can personnel cuts reduce military effectiveness?

[Balza] They should not reduce operational effectiveness. One can have fewer personnel and at the same time increase effectiveness, because such cuts would be offset by doctrinarian and organizational changes.

[ABC COLOR] Was the doctrine of the Argentine Army in keeping with the nation's status quo?

[Balza] No, because it did not respond to the nation's needs and geographical considerations. Our army was a copy of armies in other countries with which we had little in common, both geographically and economically. We are making our doctrine Argentine, which implies creating agile organizations in keeping with what we have and with what we can support. Personnel and logistics are the two fields in which streamlining and restructuring are in full swing. Restructuring does not imply closing down units, but a change in cultural patterns. We make it a point that our concern is for the future.

[ABC COLOR] What are the current priorities of the Argentine Army?

[Balza] The Army education system is our top priority. Our noncommissioned officers are currently graduating at high school level, and our officers are graduating at university level. We have established an Army University which is attended by civilians as well. We are fully reviewing the system for promotions: Seniority will be a precondition, but not the only one. We are now attaching more significance to performance and ability. There will be no more promotions just because one has the time in rank; accomplishments and excellence will be considered first. For us these are momentous cultural changes.

[ABC COLOR] When did these changes begin to take root in the minds of the Argentine military?

[Balza] On 14 June 1982—the very same day the Malvinas war ended—we realized that we had to make thorough changes. Evaluations were made through 1986, with further exhaustive studies beginning in 1990. We are now acting on the principle that we have had enough paralysis because of analysis. The time has come to put into practice all that has been analyzed.

[ABC COLOR] What is the attitude within the Argentine Armed Forces to the discovery of documents proving close cooperation between Southern Cone military governments in the repression of political opposition activists in the seventies?

[Balza] The Argentine Army has not been involved in this at all. We are not concerned with this problem. I only know about it through the news media.

[ABC COLOR] You were not aware of the Condor operation in South America?

[Balza] Not at all.

[ABC COLOR] How can it be that as a military officer you are not aware of these events?

[Balza] What rank do you think I held at the time? Army officers have different responsibilities, and at the time I was a major. What you are talking about was carried out at a level far removed from my command duties at the time.

[ABC COLOR] Was the switch from dictatorship to democracy traumatic for the Argentine Armed Forces?

[Balza] I do not believe so. The democratic feelings of our men and their respect for democratic institutions are not in doubt. The change was not traumatic.

[ABC COLOR] What about the successive uprisings by military commanders; don't they belie what you have just said?

[Balza] On the contrary, these successive uprisings merely served to confirm the deep-rooted democratic convictions of the military men, because democracy remained untouched.

[ABC COLOR] Could the issue of the diversion of the Pilcomayo River lead to any kind of conflict between the Argentine and Paraguayan Armed Forces?

[Balza] This issue is outside the jurisdiction of the chief of staff. It is a political issue which is handled by the Foreign Ministry. I believe that relations between Paraguay and Argentina will always be as friendly as they should be.

[ABC COLOR] Do you believe that the Pilcomayo issue will be resolved soon?

[Balza] I will not comment on the Pilcomayo issue. I will say, however, that nothing will happen unless Paraguayans and Argentines want it to.

Argentina Promises Solution for Pilcomayo River Issue

PY1904211893 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 15

[Text] The government of Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem has made another promise to finally solve the Pilcomayo River problem. This information was released yesterday by Raul Carignano, the new Argentine ambassador to Paraguay. The ambassador arrived in Asuncion yesterday. He was officially designated by his country to deliver this message to President Rodriguez. The diplomat denied that the Argentine Government does not consider Paraguayan authorities as valid interlocutors. He also announced a conclusive solution for the statistical tax issue.

Concerning the Pilcomayo River issue, Carignano said Argentina wants to resolve the problem and is willing to study all possibilities and adopt any measures within its reach to find a technical solution which must, however, be devised by specialists.

He said: "Our government agrees with President Rodriguez, who said that Russian specialists have valuable

experience with rivers. They could help us find a solution and we will be willing to implement it."

He said this problem should by no means affect the excellent relations between the two governments. The suspended presidential meeting in Yacyreta, however, reflects the tension existing in bilateral relations.

Asked about a report that the government of President Menem stated that the government of President Rodriguez is not a valid interlocutor over the Pilcomayo River problem, Carignano said that on 14 April he met with President Menem who told him to convey to the Paraguayan Government his absolute confidence that the problem will be immediately resolved.

He said that no Argentine official or president has ever said that this Paraguayan Government is not a valid interlocutor. He said: "This is the Paraguayan Government. This is the government with which we will negotiate, and this is the government with which we will seek solutions."

Statistical Tax

The new Argentine ambassador said that the "statistical tax" issue has been totally resolved. To this end, the two countries yesterday signed an agreement within the LAIA [Latin American Integration Association], which produced a feasible solution acceptable to both countries.

Carignano replaces outgoing Ambassador Ignacio Ruben Cardozo. He has arrived from the LAIA headquarters in Montevideo, where for the past few years he had been Argentina's permanent representative, after holding a high-ranking post at the Foreign Ministry.

While he was a Foreign Ministry official, Carignano worked to revitalize Paraguayan-Argentine relations in several fields, with the Rodriguez administration.

Carignano added that "the objectives of the two chiefs of state are far beyond mere conjectural circumstances, proving their status as capable and lucid statesmen."

Argentina Cuts Statistical Tax From 10 to 3 Percent

PY1904194693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 21

[Text] The Argentine Government, through its representative to the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), yesterday signed an economic instrument which reduces the statistical tax on exports from our country from 10 to 3 percent. That economic measure imposes tax on products entering Argentina.

Antonio Felix Lopez Acosta, Foreign Ministry economic affairs secretary, reported yesterday that this reduction will apply to the 60 items (national products and byproducts) that reportedly experienced a considerable decline in volume since the increase in the statistical tax (1 November 1992).

The document, which is valid only between the two countries, was signed at the ALADI headquarters in Montevideo (Uruguay), by Santiago Alberto Amarilla, the Paraguayan representative to that organization, and Argentine editqrepresentative Noemi Gomez.

This cut becomes effective on 18 April, just 48 hours after the signing of the document because of the delay in distributing administrative instructions to the Argentine customs offices on the border with Paraguay.

The national products which represent the highest percentage of exports to Argentina are: meat, wood, fruits, vegetables, etc. Included among the 60 items are cotton, instant coffee, coffee beans, parquet flooring, wheat, and edible oil and their byproducts. The cut on Paraguayan exports of iron and steel products will be negotiated gradually later.

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken has said this cut does not fully meet expectations because some products, such as steel, which will be subjected to further negotiations. "But it is almost a complete solution for an economic measure which had affected our exports to Argentina," he said.

Lopez Acosta, who headed the negotiations for the signing of said instrument, said a commission will be created to continue to study and analyze the list of products and to include products that are not among the 60 items.

Education Minister Submits Resignation

PY1904170593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 6

[Excerpt] Raul Sapena Brugada has submitted his irrevocable resignation as education minister. Brugada said the last drops that filled the glass were the slanderous attacks against him by Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia and Agriculture Minister Raul Torres during an unscheduled meeting between high-ranking government officials with President Andres Rodriguez on the evening of 17 April. Brugada warned people about civilian Colorado Party leaders who want to cut the transition process short and will do everything possible to achieve that end. The minister called on people not to give them any excuse whatsoever to implement their designs.

Minister Sapena Brugada made these remarks during the Forum on Cultural Policies' closing ceremony sponsored by the Municipality of Asuncion. Participants gave the minister a standing ovation, which moved him to the point of tears.

Sapena Brugada said that on the night of the 17th all cabinet ministers and other important public figures attended a meeting with the president. During this

meeting two ministers talked about "the lukewarm support that some public officials give the Colorado Party and charged that those who occupy a government post and do not campaign for the Colorado Party were a fraud, hypocrites, and traitors."

"I am going to tell you their names: They were Minister Hugo Estigarribia and Minister Raul Torres. It was something incredible. Torres even raised his voice several times in the purest Ramon Aquino [political leader during the Alfredo Stroessner era] style and asked the president to send those who are lukewarm packing home."

Sapena Brugada said the word lukewarm had been used in the past when referring to him. Therefore, he walked to the president and told him that he felt the speeches were obviously directed against him and he felt he was honoring the Colorado Party with his behavior. Brugada said he then took out the envelope with his resignation from a pocket and handed it to the president.

"Objectively, that is all that happened. It is very regrettable and definitive because I do not know of any case when President Rodriguez has rejected a resignation. I greatly appreciate the president, who I consider the true head of this democratic opening and freedom in Paraguay," Sapena Brugada emphasized.

The minister said it would be very difficult for him to return to his old position because of the state of insubordination and disloyalty of officials working inside the ministry and Colorado Party leaders' efforts to fire loyal and capable people. [passage omitted]

Other Education Officials Resign

PY1904190693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 11

[Excerpt] Numerous officials have resigned in view of Raul Sapena Brugada's decision to resign as education minister for ethical reasons. Among them is Deputy Education Minister Carmen Quintana de Horak and all the members of the Educational Reform Advisory Council. Moreover, all Education Ministry department chiefs have placed their resignations at the disposal of newly appointed Education Minister Horacio Galeano Perrone.

Carmen Quintana de Horak is the highest-ranking official to have survived in her post despite the series of education ministers who have been appointed since 3 February 1989. Horak has said she believes she is the cause of scandal. She commented on the series of requests to fire her made by ANR [National Republican Association] President Blas N. Riquelme. Horak added: "Minister Sapena had always supported me, even when people asked for my head." [passage omitted]

New Education Minister Appointed

PY1904194193 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 10

[Excerpt] Without any hesitation or preconditions, Horacio Galeano Perrone last night agreed to his appointment as education minister. This morning he took the oath of office for the second time in less that a year and a half. He replaces Raul Sapena Brugada who resigned on the evening of 17 April because of pressure exerted by a government group.

After a brief swearing-in ceremony, Galeano Perrone carefully avoided to answer journalists on the real reason for his appointment as education minister: To try to gather more votes for the Colorado Party. [passage omitted]

Deputy Alleges Sabotage Planned To Suspend Elections

PY1704021993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Citing reliable sources, Reinaldo Valenzuela, Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] deputy, yesterday warned deputies of a possible sabotage attempt against Congress to suspend the 9 May elections.

Valenzuela arrived at the Chamber of Deputies shortly before noon. He had been summoned by Ruben Fanego, acting chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, to clarify the worrying rumor.

After a lengthy meeting with Fanego, Valenzuela told the press that he had obtained this information from a reliable source, and noted the need to take preventive measures to safeguard Congress' security.

He also stated that he had already sent a note to PLRA authorities reporting the situation, and that he would do the same for the other political parties.

He said that the attempt is mainly aimed at causing an internal commotion which could pave the way for the suspension of the May elections, the results of which will apparently harm the ruling party's interests.

Valenzuela made it clear that a reliable friend, who is a Colorado Party leader, had provided the information to him. He said he did not know who those responsible for the attempt might be, which would consist in planting a bomb at the Chamber of Deputies, which is regarded as the most antagonistic forum. He said: "Three or four lawmakers would be apparently the target of the bomb attack."

He said: "The attempt would reportedly be aimed at creating an internal political commotion in order to declare a state of emergency and postpone the elections."

He reiterated that he had obtained this information from a very reliable person. He said: "I received this information from an old friend, who on many occasions has truthfully reported to me on major issues."

Valenzuela said that the police had been already informed about the situation, so that they could take the appropriate measures. He stated: "There are no guarantees or security in Congress. Anyone can enter. We have already had many problems, which fortunately were solved."

He noted the need to study the possibilty that it might come to this. He said: "We are adopting the necessary measures. We have resorted to experts in these matters to prevent any attempt."

He reported that according to the source the sabotage is scheduled to take place late in April—that is, "a few days before the elections."

Deputies Approve Electoral Code Amendments

PY1704125193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 11

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies finally accepted the criteria established by the Senate to maintain the three members that will act as authorities at each balloting table for the 9 May election. According to the new text of Article 181, two of the three members will be proposed by the political parties that obtained the largest number of votes in the past national elections. The third member will be selected—through a draw—from the files of the other political forces participating in the election.

Article 191 limits the number of poll watchers to two principals and two alternates for each polling station, and one principal and one alternate for each electoral district.

Article 193 establishes that the party representatives could be registered at the electoral district where they will act or at any other electoral district in the country. In the first case their condition will be certified by the District Electoral Board, while in the second case their condition will be certified by the Central Electoral Board.

The bill was approved by the Constitutional Affairs Committee headed by Angel Roberto Seifart, who found the amendments introduced by the Senate reasonable and recommended its approval by the plenum without changes. The Chamber of Deputies then approved the bill and sent it to the executive branch for promulgation. [passage omitted]

Government To Work 'Unanimously' To Support Colorado Ticket

PY1904213993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 8

[Excerpt] Reliable sources have reported that during an unscheduled meeting at the Defense Ministry building on Saturday evening, the government decided to work unanimously to support the Wasmosy-Seifart Colorado ticket, using all available mechanisms and resources. In the face of attacks directed against him during the meeting, Education Minister Raul Sapena Brugada tendered his resignation to President Andres Rodriguez.

The meeting was attended by the president, ministers, directors of public institutions and autonomous agencies, and the main commanders of the Armed Forces.

Many of those who attended said that they were unexpectedly called to a meeting at the Defense Ministry, without being told whether it would be a social or a political meeting. It was leaked, however, that the objective was to decide to use the entire government structure to support the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket.

The meeting took place on the rooftop terrace of the ministry building. It was surprising to note that a light blue BMW car bearing Asuncion license plate number 138992—reportedly owned by Juan Carlos Wasmosy—had been parked in front of the ministry building since approximately 1730. It was reported that Wasmosy's wife was in charge of decorating the place where the meeting took place.

Reliable sources told ABC COLOR journalists that the main speaker at the meeting was Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche. In categorical, harsh language, Estigarribia said it was time to firmly support the Colorado ticket, unlike those who still have a "lukewarm" attitude. This was a clear allusion to Education Minister Raul Sapena Brugada, who has resigned. In his speech, the interior minister analyzed the achievements of the government of President Rodriguez. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows PLRA's Laino Leading Presidential Race

PY1804031393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] According to a poll conducted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and published yesterday, Domingo Laino [presidential candidate for the Radical Liberal Party—PLRA] has taken the lead in the political field at a national level, weathering the storm of voting possibilities with but a few days remaining before the 9 May general elections.

In fact, from among the 1,300 people surveyed, Laino received no less than 34.6 percent of the votes. This increase represents a significant increase of an average 20 percent when compared with the PLRA candidate's position in polls published in previous weeks.

Receiving almost equal percentages, but much below the PLRA average, were the candidates for the ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party], Juan Carlos Wasmosy, who received 28.9 percent of the votes, and for National Encounter, Guillermo Caballero Vargas, who obtained 25.9 percent. According to the

same report Democratic and Social Coalition [CDS] candidate Ricardo Canese also registered a significant increase in support, garnering an average three times as many votes as was reflected in previous polls, with more than 5.8 percent at the national level.

In all aspects, the data obtained from the poll commissioned by the forces of international liberalism to show the position of their local counterparts shows a spectacular swing in favor of the PLRA candidates over their political adversaries, guaranteeing that the presidential seat will be occupied by a liberal in the near future.

Poll Shows Caballero Vargas Leading Presidential Race

PY2004004093

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 17 April publishes on pages 2 and 3 an unattributed 700-word article, constituting the second part of a series on the results of a poll conducted by First (Analysis and Studies), under the direction of Francisco Capll, in Asuncion and in the Central Department.

According to the article the poll found that among the 9.5 percent of undecided voters, 40 percent (10,491 voters) prefer National Encounter candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas; 10 percent (2,622 voters) support National Republican Association, ANR, candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy; and 5 percent (1,311 voters) favor Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, candidate Domingo Laino. However, 30 percent of these undecided voters stated they would not vote for Wasmosy; 15 percent said they would not vote for Laino; and 10 percent said they would not vote for Caballero Vargas.

The poll indicates that of the undecided voters polled in the Central Department, 37.9 percent will vote for Caballero Vargas; 24.1 percent will vote for Wasmosy; and 6.9 percent will vote for Laino; while 31 percent remain undecided.

When the undecided voters polled in the Central Department were asked which candidate should not win the 9 May elections, 26.7 percent said Wasmosy; 16.7 percent said Laino; and 3.3 percent said Caballero Vargas.

The poll concludes that there is a marked preference for Caballero Vargas among women voters. Of those polled in Asuncion, the women's vote was distributed as follows: 53.6 percent for Caballero Vargas; 22.3 percent for Wasmosy; and 8 percent for Laino. The male vote in Asuncion was as follows: 38.2 percent for Caballero Vargas; 23.6 percent for Wasmosy; and 20.2 percent for Laino.

In the Central Department the distribution of the women's vote was as follows: 37.4 percent for Caballero Vargas; 27.2 percent for Wasmosy; and 22.7 percent for Laino.

If the elections were held today, the poll concludes that the electoral preference by age group in Asuncion would be as follows: Among those in the 18-30 age bracket, Caballero Vargas would obtain the majority, with 62.9 percent; Laino comes in second, with 12.9 percent; and Wasmosy comes third with 8.6 percent.

In addition, the poll shows that among those in the 30-40 age bracket Caballero Vargas again comes in first, with 37.1 percent, followed closely by Wasmosy, with 32.9 percent of the votes, while Laino trails with 8.6 percent.

Among those 41 years or older, the vote preference is as follows: Caballero Vargas obtained 39.3 percent, Wasmosy 27.9 percent, and Laino 19.7 percent.

There is a marked difference in the vote preference by age group in the Central Department. Although Caballero Vargas maintains a wide lead among the young, with 57.8 percent followed by Wasmosy with 16.7 percent and Laino with 15.7 percent, there is greater support for the ANR and PLRA candidates in the older age brackets. Among those in the 30-40 age bracket, Caballero Vargas obtained 32.7 percent; Wasmosy 29 percent, and Laino 22.4 percent. However, among those 41 years and older Wasmosy obtained a majority, with 34.1 percent, with Caballero Vargas and Laino both receiving 23.9 percent.

Poll Shows Colorado Party Leading Congressional Race

PY1704013893

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 16 April publishes on pages 2 and 3 a 700-word unattributed article on the results of a poll conducted by First (Analysis and Studies), under the direction of Francisco Capll, in Asuncion and in the Central Department, in the following cities: Lambare, San Lorenzo, Luque, Capiata, Itagua, Ypacarai, Aregua, Nemby, Villeta, and Limpio. The poll was conducted by professionals who interviewed individuals listed in the electoral registry who said they would vote in the 9 May elections. The poll was conducted on 7, 13, 14, and 15 April, involved 498 individuals, and according to the article has a 95.5 percent level of accuracy.

Regarding the presidential race, the poll conducted in Asuncion among 201 individuals indicates that Guillermo Caballero Vargas of National Encounter would garner 46.8 percent of the votes, Juan Carlos Wasmosy of the Colorado Party would get 22.9 percent, Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] would get 13.4 percent, and Ricardo Canese of the Democratic and Social Coalition would receive 3 percent. The percentage of undecided voters in Asuncion reaches 9.5 percent. In the Central Department, the poll for the presidential race shows Caballero Vargas ahead with 38.7 percent, Wasmosy receiving 26.3 percent, Laino with 20.5 percent, and Canese with 1.7 percent. Undecided voters in the Central Department were at 9.8 percent, which is very similar to the Asuncion percentage.

In the congressional race the Colorado Party is ahead. The poll conducted in Asuncion shows the following percentages for senators: Colorado Party 33.8 percent; PLRA 24.4 percent; National Encounter 24.4 percent; and the percentage of uncecided is 15.9 percent. In the Central Department the poll shows: Colorado Party 35.4 percent; PLRA 29.6 percent; and National Encounter 18.9 perecent.

In the race for deputies the poll shows that the Colorado Party is also ahead. The percentages for deputies in Asuncion are: Colorado Party 32.8 percent; PLRA 25.5 precent; and National Encounter 25.8 percent. The percentage of undecided is 14.9 percent. The percentages for deputies in the Central Department are: Colorado Party 35.4 percent; PLRA 29.3 percent; and National Encounter 19.5 percent. The percentage of undecided voters is 15.2 percent.

The poll also indicates that the percentage of undecided voters in Asuncion would not have any influence on the final results of the presidential election, but would have an influence on the elections for senator and deputy.

Peru

Commission Chairman on New Constitution

PA1904185793 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Interview with Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, president of the Constitution Commission of the Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, by host Guido Lombardi on the "Panorama" program, in Lima—live]

[Text] [Lombardi] Good evening, Dr. Torres y Torres Lara. It is a pleasure to have you with us.

[Torres] It is my pleasure to be here with you and your viewers.

[Lombardi] There have been several conflicts between Change 90 and New Majority, represented in the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD]. It is said you are the president's man in the CCD. Do you feel like the president's man?

[Torres] No, not at all. The media exaggerates the differences between the two groups. We understand each other more and more all the time. Change 90 is a political group that supported the president in his election. The other one is an independent group, to which I belong, which has been gradually joining the alliance. In the meetings we have been holding, we realize there are many points of agreement. Definitely, it is not true that we have such differences. Even though there are different opinions, even within New Majority or within Change 90, we speak clearly about all issues. We do not fully agree on many issues. This is a new group that has differences on some points, but nothing significant.

[Lombardi] The question is whether or not you are the president's man in the CCD, and that is very important Dr. Torres. The U.S. president has said that for Peru to receive U.S. assistance, the CCD must show it is autonomous. You are president of the most important CCD commission. Such criticism of its autonomy harms the country. There is no democracy in Peru, because the Congress is not autonomous. Can you defend the CCD's autonomy?

[Torres] Absolutely. During the electoral campaign, I said that I—like all the other members of our team—do not receive any orders from the presidential palace. There are some very interesting coincidences. I have been prime minister and I have worked directly with President Fujimori. I know he is an honest, hard-working man. I know what he is doing. I have joined this political process because I basically agree with him. I also have differences with him. The issue of the government by cabinet is a point of disagreement that was made public some time ago.

[Lombardi] Did you propose that government by cabinet? Please explain to our viewers what that proposal means.

[Torres] The most important thing is that we do away with this idea of the very personal presidency that our constitutional process has held for a long time. We must move toward a more technical government in which the president's team handles the country's basic problems and supports the guidance given by the president. For example, I think the ministers should be chosen by the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

[Lombardi] That is not the case? Did you elect your ministers when you were chairman of the Council?

[Torres] Not at all. The current Constitution establishes that the president of the Republic, who receives suggestions from the chairman of the Council of Ministers, decides the ministers. Although the prime minister makes the proposals, the president has a direct relationship with the ministers. The prime minister is the coordinator of the other cabinet members, given his leadership abilities, let us say. The more able a leader he is, the greater his participation. But if he also holds another post, another ministry, and does not demonstrate leadership, the other ministers then report directly to the president. This, therefore, has to be changed, the cabinet must be reinforced....

[Lombardi, interrupting] You are giving this as an example—pardon me for interrupting—of autonomy, which is one of the topics in which you—and I imagine other members of the CCD—disagree with the president. But that has not been included in the new Constitution.

[Torres] We have made significant progress in the draft constitution on the issue of government by cabinet. For example, this draft now establishes that the decrees—not only legislative decrees, but also urgent decrees—cannot be approved by the president and one minister, but

rather they must be approved by the Council of Ministers. In addition, to dissolve the Congress, it is necessary to have the agreement of the Council of Ministers.

[Lombardi] Do you think that topic— of dissolving Congress—is another topic that leads one to think of this Congress' lack of autonomy, and that it is restricting its future actions?

[Torres] No, not if you look at it in an objective manner and compare our system with other foreign governments. The draft we are preparing is much more flexible. It has been said many times that there is a presidential system in Peru but that is not true. The presidential system exists in the United States. If I could choose, frankly, I would choose the presidential system of government. What we need is a system of government like the presidential one that exists in the United States. There is total separation between the Executive Branch and the Congress. The Congress cannot censure the ministers, it does not censure the ministers, and the president is in charge of conducting the government. That presidential possibility, however, is no longer possible in Peru, because we have advanced quite a lot toward the parliamentary system. Within that logic, we must find an intermediate, albeit reasonable, solution. The one that would be closest to our model is the French model.

[Lombardi] Before going into the French or U.S. model, Dr. Torres, it is true the U.S. Congress cannot censure a minister, but President Clinton has not been able to appoint a justice secretary because public opinion and the Congress prevented that appointment. In that case, this absolute separation of powers is not real. The U.S. Congress has a real and overwhelming power over the president.

[Torres] That is definitely true, but it is an exception. Generally the secretaries rather than ministers are designated by the president, except in these very special cases. The problem now lies within the Democratic Party. The appointment of secretaries is a very normal process. At this moment, a special situation exists in the United States.

[Lombardi] We have stayed on the topic of autonomy for a long time, but I think it is a key issue to see how the CCD is going to be to prove to national and international public opinion that it is autonomous.

[Torres] I do not think we have to prove anything. We have to carry out rational and reasonable work. The limits of what we are doing can be compared in international terms. We do not have to prove anything to international opinion about our work being done this or that way. Of course, we must enlighten national opinion on this. When any foreigner wants to see if the Constitution being formulated is reasonable, all he has to do is compare it with the constitutions of other countries. I do not refer to cases of underdeveloped countries, to which there may be objections. It should be compared to constitutions of other countries. If what is being approved here is contained in other constitutions, then it is acceptable.

[Lombardi] I believe, unfortunately, that the topic of autonomy not only deals with the Constitution that is being drafted. It also deals with other responsibilities of Congress. We will talk about this after a pause.

You referred basically to autonomy in drafting the Constitution. There are other tasks, however, that pertain to the CCD: those of legislation and review. Do you think the Congress has carried out the review task adequately? That would be an important credential of autonomy. Has there been an investigation of what happened in the Foreign Ministry? Has what the Executive Branch did in the Foreign Ministry been resolved? Today there is an article in the papers about 21 law decrees that have not been published in EL PERUANO. Has that been investigated? Has the contract with (?Blooming and Strong) on the topic of foreign investment been investigated adequately?

[Torres] First, I would say that the case of (?Blooming) has been investigated by the Congress. If there were no Congress, we would not know how everything took place. The same goes for the ambassadors who were dismissed from their posts. The commission has investigated the matter and has determined that there are several cases in which an injustice was committed. They will have to be reviewed. Four or five cases were mentioned, perhaps there are others.

[Lombardi] Who is going to do the reviewing?

[Torres] The commission. The commission is carefully analyzing each case to determine the situation and to reemploy those against whom an injustice has been committed.

[Lombardi] I would prefer not to discuss each case individually. I would rather discuss the probing task in general.

[Torres] Our critical philosophy must be adequately pursued so that investigations of charges are thoroughly carried out and results may be obtained. Investigations should be carried out based on properly filed and well-based charges. This is how Congress will proceed.

No judgment should be passed now. We are just beginning. Charges are being filed. We are initiating investigations. You can be sure that whenever an irregular situation is found, we will take severe action.

[Lombardi] We will be ready to applaud this severity. A more serious discrepancy exists between you and the president, Dr. Torres. On 5 April 1992, President Fujimori closed Congress and declared that the Judicial Branch would be reorganized because the country's democratic institutions had to be changed because they were not functioning. He expressed the same concepts on 18 May 1992 in the Bahamas. You are saying now that

the Constitution needs only minor adjustments? A rhetorical Constitution, just like that of 1979, is being drafted. All the articles in Chapter 1, with the exception of Article 2, are rhetorical articles. We are talking about 170 articles, or three-fifths, of approximately 280 articles, I believe. Is this not a serious contradiction to the radical constitutional changes that President Fujimori wanted to produce on 5 April?

[Torres] I do not know whether or not this has to do with what he has said. I can tell you, though, that I have not said that we must implement is a slightly adjusted version of the 1979 Constitution. No way. I think, and my group thinks, that the 1979 Constitution must be changed significantly. This does not mean that we should disregard the good points of the 1979 Constitution. For example: We obviously are not going to change Chapter 1, which deals with the right to life and to property, etc. We have to reiterate that. Experts had thought we were going to carbon copy the entire first chapter because it is so good, really, that it needed no adjustment. We, however, have added some points we believe are essential. These points include political changes the country needs: integration, concepts....

[Lombardi, interrupting] This is good but too poetic, isn't it, Doctor?

[Torres] Absolutely not. Let's see what this is about. First, it is about the people's right to propose legal norms. Before citizens did not have the right to a referendum. This means we are dealing with fundamental problems. This means we should not just....

[Lombardi, interrupting] What I am saying is that the fact that an idea appears in the Constitution does not mean citizens will enjoy this right. The right pregnant women have to food and the people's right to be informed are in the Constitution but they are not being enjoyed in real life.

[Torres] The right to life is also listed there. The fact that there are killers does not mean that this right should be scratched from the Constitution. On some news program someone said he steals because that is his business. Situations must be corrected. How are they corrected? In a perfect world we would not require a Constitution or laws. All we would have to do is to comply with our moral obligations. This way no constitution or law would be necessary. But this is not the way the world functions. Few comply and for this reason we must set forth legal norms establishing principles. This is why we have to speak about the right to life, the right to property, and we must establish the new rights that will produce political change in Peru, give the people the right to participate, the right, for example, to elect and to dismiss authorities. When an official fails to fulfill his obligations, he must be dismissed not only by top officials but also by the people. This is why we must make significant political modifications in Peru and make the citizens feel that they govern the country.

[Lombardi] We wholeheartedly agree there. To achieve it, however, we must reach a consensus not just among lawmakers but among citizens. President Clinton also has referred to the topic of consensus as something the Congress was lacking in approving the Constitution. This topic was been on everybody's mind since the CCD elections were called. Do you think consensus is being reached? On the topic of the economy, for example, the chairman of the Economy Commission is proposing a definition of the economic system, yet this has been changed by another proposal by Mr. Victor Joy Way, who is not a member of the commission. This may be minor problem, but how is consensus to be achieved on this Constitution?

[Torres] Here are some figures, to be as objective as possible on the topic of consensus. We have already approved 200 articles of a bill that is likely to have 300 in its first draft. We have already approved two-thirds of the Constitution. We have taken 268 votes, and on 103 of them, that is 38 percent of them, the voting has been unanimous. All the representatives from the different political groups have cast votes in favor. We have agreed 38 percent, almost 40 percent, of the time. The left, for instance, has also agreed with the New Majority-Change 90 group on 80 additional votes, or 32 percent. This means the New Majority and the left have agreed 70 percent of the time. Obviously, we cannot agree 100 percent of the time. On economic topics, we concur with the Popular Christian Party [PPC] or the Renewal Movement. The work the New Majority-Change 90 is conducting is, therefore, one of consensus building and coordination. Let me mentions this very important example. If we were to take the New Majority-Change 90 bloc out of the Congress, I wonder if the left would reach an understanding with the Renewal Movement or the PPC? They would not understand each other. The presence of our group serves to integrate them and to allow us to take coordinated action. Someone corrected me when I said this. He said: It would be worse if you and the left were the only ones because you would not reach an understanding. That is truth. The work we are conducting, therefore, is to coordinate the efforts by the left and right. What we are doing is to reach points of concurrence, although there cannot be absolute consensus, because that would be like the government of Fidel Castro, that is to say where the legislature votes 100 percent in favor of a motion. That is impossible, but on fundamental points we can reach agreement.

[Lombardi] How will the Constitution be approved? Some in the Congress, including Congressman Jaime Yoshiyama, are saying they hope you can keep your promise of having it ready by 28 July. The opposition, in turn, is saying approval cannot be rushed. First, what methods will be employed in the Congress, and when? Second, how will it be submitted to a referendum? As a whole? In parts? By chapter? By title? How?

[Torres] Before May is up, we, as a commission, estimate we will have a first bill of approximately 300 articles, to be submitted to public consideration for a great national

debate. It will be published in EL PERUANO, and we hope it will generate a great debate. Following that debate and the contributions that are made, something that is already happening, we will make changes under the same conditions. Afterward, they will be submitted to the plenary session. It will become necessary to go to all the provinces and towns to make the institutions participate, although they are already participating. That way, the final text will be the result of a consensus effort not just on the part of those of us who are seated around a table holding debates and trying to reflect the concerns of the people, but a national consensus. This is what we must achieve. To do that, we must go out to hold debates and talks and gather opinions. I want to say this: Nothing we think is final. We want to listen to the people. We will conclude this work and go out to seek that national consensus.

[Lombardi] Perhaps it would have been easier to listen to the people if you had submitted the constitution bill you said you had. We would have....

[Torres, interrupting] It would have....

[Lombardi, interrupting] ... the citizens would have been able to refer to the bill in a much more specific manner.

[Torres] What is better? For New Majority-Change 90 to have submitted its bill for debate, or the one we are drafting, which represents the coming together of the views of the New Majority- hange 90 with the left, the Renewal Movement, and the more conservative groups? We are not going to offer the country our opinion but an effort for unification and cooperation. We must build the Peru's future. This cannot be the idea of one party, one man, or one team. It must be a national effort.

[Lombardi] Thank you for accompanying us tonight. I wish I had enough time to compare the topics proposed during the electoral campaign with what is coming out. After this last answer, I find this unnecessary. Besides, we will have the opportunity to continue our talk.